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LD101310 [Editorial Report]

Iran

"We have not assumed responsibility for initiating any attack on any ship," Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, spokesman for the Supreme Defense Council, declared in an interview with Tehran radio. While suggesting that the U.S.-owned tanker *Peconic* may have been attacked off the Kuwaiti coast by "unidentified elements" or even the Iraqis, Hashemi-Rafsanjani reiterated his country's policy of retaliation against ships belonging to "Iraq's mentors." On the subject of Kuwaiti vessels sailing under U.S. or Soviet flags, the speaker reaffirmed Iran's condemnation of any regional government that invites foreign countries into the area. Nevertheless, he said, Iran has no "right to intervene" in the affairs of others.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani described the Soviet position favoring the withdrawal of all foreign warships from the Gulf as "correct" and "very progressive." The Reagan administration should "turn back today," lest the United States face "definite defeat" in the Gulf as well as superpower politics, he advised.

Commenting on recent "crises and problems" in relations with France and Britain, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that the Islamic Republic's "consistent policy" has been to "reduce relations" with "arrogant" countries that pursue "spying and colonialist objectives." Charging that Western diplomats in Iran pursue "wicked" aims, the speaker warned that if they "cause disorder," then we are prepared to deal with them.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani also announced that "everything has been clarified" following the receipt of an official apology regarding the landing of a Soviet military plane at Zabol airport 7 July. The airspace violation was not "ill-intentioned," Rafsanjani noted. According to a Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by TASS, the plane got lost in bad weather.

Lebanon

Glass Abduction — According to a statement delivered to a foreign news agency in West Beirut, the "Organization for the Defense of the Free People" asserted that it has custody of U.S. journalist Charles Glass, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. The statement charged that the "Organization of Right Against Falsehood," which also claimed responsibility for kidnapping Glass, is a "cover for intelligence organs" which want to "exploit" the situation.

Hizballah Statement — A Hizballah statement released in Beirut asserted that the crisis can only be resolved by "armed struggle against the U.S.-backed regime," IRNA reported, adding that the statement "reproached" Lebanese groups for being overly concerned about their own political goals.

Mubarak-Peres Talks

Following 2 hours of talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Geneva, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told Jerusalem radio that "no differences of opinion" emerged during the "very frank and friendly" conversation. On the issue of Soviet participation in an international peace conference on the Middle East, Peres noted that he and Mubarak agreed on the concept of "direct negotiations with an international opening." Peres also said that the Egyptian president favored a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the proposed conference and that Mubarak is "definitely against" a Palestinian state.

In remarks to Cairo radio, Mubarak described the convening of an international conference on the Mideast as an "umbrella" for direct talks. The president stressed Egypt's desire for "cooperation and coordination" on the "sensitive issue" of the peace process and declared that Soviet "flexibility" raises the hope that a conference can indeed be convened before the end of 1987.

Chad-Libya

Chadian President Hissein Habre told Paris radio that Libya has some 10,000 troops in northern Chad and that the "large" Libyan contingent is constantly being reinforced. We believe that the Libyans not only intend to maintain their presence but that they also plan to resume offensive operations, the president said. The Chadian Government is preparing for this possibility, Hissein Habre declared. While blaming the Libyans for the lack of progress in reconciliation talks with opposition leader Goukouni Oueddei, Habre reiterated Ndjamena's "goodwill" and noted that he remains "optimistic."

Syrian-Iraqi Presidential Summit Possible Soon

PM101233 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
8-14 Jul 87 pp 22-23

[Salih Qallab report: "An Announced Meeting Between Al-Asad and Saddam Husayn Soon"]

[Text] Quite some time ago, there were successive indications that Syria was about to take "decisive steps" and that it was, quietly and without any clamor, moving toward a "comprehensive change" in its attitudes and policies on a number of crucial Arab and regional issues such as the Gulf war and the Iraq-Iran conflict, the attitude to the PLO and the Palestinian leadership, and relations with the United States and the EC.

The first sign appeared in the last few months — around the end of last year and the beginning of this year — when reports and information began to surface about Syrian-Iraqi meetings in response to the efforts started by Saudi Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister, and National Guard Commander Prince 'Abdallah Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and completed by King Husayn of Jordan in shuttle visits to the Iraqi and Syrian capitals. In view of the conflicting reports about the nature and level of these meetings, an Iraqi official has told a prominent Arab personality that the much talked about meeting between Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has indeed been held and that the exchange of views focused on the "most sensitive" and outstanding issues between Baghdad and Damascus, especially Syria's position on the Iraq-Iran war. According to the same information, President Hafiz al-Asad, during that meeting, asked for time in relation to the question of [Syria's] position on the Iraq-Iran war, pointing out that his country was reexamining its ties with Iran in the light of Lebanese developments as well as Iraq-Iran war developments. He reaffirmed that Syrian-Iraqi relations should begin at the same point reached several years ago; namely, the national charter drawn up in the late 1970's including a plan for the unification of the two parties and merger of the two states into one state. President al-Asad also raised the issue of Egyptian-Iraqi rapprochement and the attitude to the PLO, noting that as far as Damascus was concerned it was an issue of Yasir 'Arafat not the PLO.

For his part, the Iraqi president explained the circumstances which necessitated the revival of ties between Baghdad and Cairo. He emphasized that the Iraqi position on the Palestinian question is based on noninterference in Palestinian internal affairs, respect for Palestinian decisions, and recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. As regards the national charter and making it the starting point of a Syrian-Iraqi rapprochement, the Iraqi president stressed that if rapprochement is to be secure, practical, and based on sound foundations, it should begin at the minimum level not the maximum level. Therefore, there must be preparatory steps to pave the way for normalization of relations between the two countries based mainly on a discernible step by Syria on the Iraq-Iran war.

So, on the basis of what has happened, it is believed that although the meeting between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Saddam Husayn did not achieve the desired success, it was not a complete failure either. The mere fact that it did take place is considered to be a significant development in the relations and crisis between the two countries which dates back to the early eighties and which has continued because of disagreement on the Gulf war and Syria's attitude to that war. The aforementioned Iraqi official also told the Arab figure that another meeting will be held in the near future between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Saddam Husayn, and that the meeting, if it takes place, is expected to produce a major relaxation between the two countries and result in a new map of alliances and political blocs in the region, particularly in regard to the Iraq-Iran war.

The Iraqi official further stated that Iraqi-Syrian meetings at the level of security committees and foreign ministers, important as they are, will only tackle the task of settling outstanding issues between the two countries if no summit meeting is held on the earliest possible date between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Saddam Husayn. He added that the anticipated summit conference is expected to be followed by several meetings at lower levels to implement what the two leaders agree upon. Observers of the efforts already made, and currently in progress, to normalize Syrian-Iraqi relations believe that the most significant indication of the success of these efforts is the fact that Syria is now very close to the point of decision regarding the Iraq-Iran war issue. In addition, the gap between Damascus and Tehran is getting wider and wider while the gap between Damascus and Baghdad is getting narrower and narrower. In this respect, Syria has recently declined to receive Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi-Khamene'i on the pretext that Syrian Prime Minister 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm, who was supposed to meet him, was indisposed. It has also been noticed that the conflict between Syria and Iran in Lebanon has recently been such that Syria, which last February sent in its troops to control the deteriorating security situation following the intensification of the kidnapping of foreigners and to help bring about a release of the hostages which are allegedly held by religious groups close to Iran, saw the kidnap of U.S. reporter Charles Glass 2 weeks ago as a clear Iranian challenge to its policy in Lebanon. As an answer to that challenge, Damascus acted promptly — at the time talks were in progress between President al-Asad and King Husayn of Jordan regarding the anticipated Syrian-Iraqi summit. It carried out a number of military measures in the areas of Syrian military deployment (Al-Biqa' and Beirut) to tighten the noose around the pro-Iran forces and groups. It is believed that Syrian forces might, at any moment, storm the southern suburb of Beirut, considered to be the stronghold of the forces and extremist groups loyal to the Iranian leadership.

In reference to the expected changes in Syrian inclinations and policies, it should be noted that in recent weeks Cyprus witnessed a Syrian-Palestinian meeting given a security label. It was attended on the Syrian side by Brigadier General al-Hamdani, a senior official of the Syrian intelligence service, and on the Palestinian side by Fatah Central Committee member and official in charge of central security in the Palestinian resistance Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid (Abu Rida) who is well acquainted with Syrian affairs by virtue of the fact that he has lived in Syria since leaving the town of Safad in Palestine after the 1948 catastrophe, and the fact that during his secondary and university education he joined Syrian pan-Arab forces and movements. At that meeting, the Syrian official raised four issues which he considered to be essential, pointing out that resolving these issues would be the

first and most important step toward better relations between Syria and the PLO. They were: The issue of Egyptian-Palestinian ties, which are still unsevered and unaffected by the recent PNC resolutions; the issue of the Budapest meeting between PLO Executive Committee members and Israeli Knesset members who consider themselves to be in conflict with the Zionist Movement and its objectives and in favor of Palestinian rights; the issue of the statements made by [PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat] Abu 'Ammar on the relationship between the PLO and these Israeli forces and groups; and the issue of Palestinian national unity, which Damascus still considers to be incomplete because of the absence of some factions from the recent PNC session.

Apart from that, the discussions also broached the situation related to both sides' positions in Lebanon. The Palestinian official requested the release of the Palestinians who had returned to Lebanon earlier to prepare for the Palestinian return to Lebanon at a later stage. They include Central Security Command member Tawfiq al-Tayrawi (Abu Husayn), Central Security Command member Raji al-Najmi, and another official called Abu Dawud (not to be confused with Fatah-revolutionary Council Member Abu Dawud who was the target of an assassination attempt in the early eighties). On the other hand, the Syrian official requested discontinuation of the aid the PLO is said to be giving some sectors of the Syrian opposition abroad. He also wanted to see an end to the coordination between the Palestinian security organs and certain Arab organs. He emphasized that the Palestinian side should stop providing aid for the circles opposed to Syrian policy in Lebanon.

In the same vein, it should be noted that President Hafiz al-Asad told Soviet mediator and roving ambassador Mikhail Sytenko, who was trying to bridge the gap between Damascus and the PLO in May, that he detected a shift in the Palestinian position reflected in the recent PNC resolutions but that he would need 4 months to test the real intentions of the new Palestinian leadership. It is known that the Soviet Union, as recently stated by Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, believes that, in the light of the efforts made to convene an international conference on the Middle East, there is a need for Syrian-Palestinian differences to come to an end and that if such differences were justified in the past there is no longer any justification for them following the recent PNC session and the settlement of the question of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement and Egyptian-Palestinian relations. During his meeting with the Palestinian leadership after his visit to Damascus and his 4-hour meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad, Sytenko stressed that the Syrian position was still generally the same as it was before, but he sensed a Syrian willingness to abandon its previous Palestinian policy. In return, 'Arafat stressed that the PLO appreciated Moscow's efforts in this connection and suggested that a Syrian-Palestinian conference be held in the Soviet capital on a date to be agreed upon. It is believed that PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi (Abu al-Lutf) discussed this matter during his recent visit to the Soviet Union.

In another significant and meaningful development, as far as Syrian-Palestinian relations in particular and Syria's attitude to the West and the United States in general are concerned, it is worth noting that the Syrian authorities, in preparing themselves for the new step, closed down all the offices and establishments of Fatah-Revolutionary Council Movement (Abu Nidal's group) and deported all the families of the members and officials of that group from Syrian territory. This measure was apparently taken quietly without any statements and counterstatements and it did not come as a surprise to that Palestinian faction. A responsible source in that organization has stated that his organization realized early that this was going to happen and it therefore removed all its sensitive documents and files and reduced its presence in Syria. It is generally believed that the Syrian measure against the Abu Nidal group will sooner or later lead to rapprochment with the PLO. It should be mentioned here that the PLO-Iraqi rapprochement which began in the early eighties was preceded by a collapse in [Iraq's] relations with the "Revolutionary Council" resulting in the closure of all its offices and camps in Iraq.

In actual fact, the step taken against the Abu Nidal group reflected not only on Syrian-PLO relations but also on Syria's relations with the United States and the Western states. Despite Syrian insistence that it was "the firm Syrian position in favor of Arab rights and interests" which made Washington seek a resumption of the dialogue with Damascus, these states saw the closure of the offices of that organization, which is accused of terrorism and extremism, as a good reason for ending the estrangement between them and the Syrian capital. It is now certain that the recently reported visit to Damascus by U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Vernon Walters did not come as a surprise and was not made on the spur of the moment. It was preceded by repeated contacts following former U.S. President Carter's visit to Damascus with a message from President Reagan to President Hafiz al-Asad. It was also preceded by mediations carried out by — in addition to King Husayn of Jordan — French Prime Minister Jaques Chirac whose relations with President al-Asad grew stronger in view of the special stand taken by him on the known issue of Hindawi which was accompanied by charges implicating Syria in the attempt to blow up an Israeli El Al airliner after takeoff from Heathrow airport.

Now that the Western diplomatic missions in Damascus have confirmed the closure of the Abu Nidal offices in Syria and the Syrian leadership's relentless efforts to free the Western hostages kidnapped by pro-Iranian groups in Iran, the U.S. step toward Syria will be followed by similar West European steps expected to culminate in a collective stand at the Copenhagen summit on 13 July. It is known that the sides which, since the beginning of the Hindawi case in April last year, have been trying to end the misunderstanding between Syria and Europe and bring about a cancellation of the EC measures against Syria, have always stressed that any move regarding the Middle East crisis and the holding of an international conference would necessitate the lifting of sanctions taken against Syria in the wake of the clamor about "terrorism" in recent years.

And now, will the Syrian shift take the form of a "comprehensive change" or will it be gradual in the well-known Syrian style? Some, it should be pointed out, are saying that Syria will never fully close some doors and open new doors; it will continue with its half-open door policy toward Iran, the Gulf war, the PLO, Europe and the United States.

Habre Views Libyan Presence, OAU Mediation
LD091824 Paris International Service in French 1315 GMT 9 Jul 87

["Exclusive" interview with President Hissein Habre by Radio France Internationale correspondent Edouard Dore on 8 July in Ndjamena carried on the "Carrefour" program — recorded]

[Excerpts] [Dore] Mr President: First of all, I thank you for receiving us here in Ndjamena. In a few days you will be in Paris where you will attend the parade of the French troops on the Champs Elysees on the occasion of France's national day, 14 July. I have many questions to ask you, as you may suspect. It must be said that these last few months have been full of events regarding Chad. Some of them will remain deeply engraved in your country's history, particularly this succession of brilliant military victories which has forced the very well-equipped Libyan troops to withdraw. Other events are also worth noting: the return to Ndjamena of several opponents, the open dialogue with Goukouni Oueddei and then, after Chad has been subjected to more than 20 years of confrontation, the beginning of a resumption of economic activities in the country. If you agree, we shall also talk aboutyour recent official visit to the United States, Chad's place within the subregion, the OAU, and the phenomenon of Muslim fundamentalism in Africa. In short, many questions as you can see, but first of all, I would like you to tell us in what spirit you are going to Paris and, given the fact that you will be there on 14 July, the French national day, how do you view this symbolically?

[Habre] Regarding my trip to Paris, to France, it is within the framework of the amiable invitation President Francois Mitterrand kindly extended to me, and it is therefore with a feeling of serenity that I am going to France insofar as relations are excellent between Chad and France. I go to Paris with the best of feelings. On the same occasion, I have been given the honor of attending the 14 July festivities, particularly the parade. It will, therefore, be an altogether normal visit which takes place once more within the framework of good relations between our two countries.

[Dore] France is currently redeploying its Epervier military system in Chad. It has decided to somewhat reduce its numbers in your country. Do you believe this reduction to be premature?

[Habre] From some points of view yes, it is premature, insofar as on the military plane the situation has not evolved in such a way as to make certain that serious events will not reoccur. It is from this angle that we believe that the Epervier system should be kept as it is. Nonetheless, we must also note that there is a certain evolution and that, consequently, the flight reduction of the Epervier system is not likely to weaken its capabilities in action.

[Dore] After France, the United States is Chad's most important military supplier. It seemed to some observers in the past few weeks that the United States and France were competing in Chad. Is this true, or is it mere speculation?

[Habre] I do not believe the word competing is really suitable here. Indeed, Chad is confronted with immense difficulties — not only the war, but also the economic difficulties you were mentioning — and therefore Chad needs the aid, support, and assistance of all its friends. This being said,the United States is present; France is our traditional partner. Consequently, the aid which each of them grants Chad is complementary. From this point of view I see no competition, rather a complementary action.

[Dore] What importance do you attach, for example, to the first official visit you paid to the United States a few days ago? Did this have significance for France-Chad relations, for example?

[Habre] I see no special significance for France-Chad relations in this. This visit merely reflects in some way the good relations between Chad and the United States and thecooperation which is developing in a satisfactory manner. This is the significance to attach to this visit, but I see no relation or implication whatsoever to the relations between Chad and France.

[Dore] Now to end this chapter, Mr President. There was talk of rivalry between French and U.S. experts in stripping to pieces the Soviet military equipment captured by the Chadian Army during its recent victories. What is the truth? Has there been rivalry between experts?

[Habre] To tell the truth, the issue is a simple one. However, a lot has been said about it and, in the main, the media will report anything — if you will forgive me these words. The issue is a simple one: As you may suspect, France, just as the United States, is interested in this equipment, part of it being high-technology equipment. This being said, what we were interested in most was to put this material safely out of the way.

This equipment is important and sometimes difficult to handle. Thank God, today we have managed to put this equipment safely out of the way. This being said, our partners — France and the United States — have gotten in touch with the Chadian authorities to see to what extent they could obtain access to this equipment. The issue is quite simple. That France and the United States should be interested in this equipment is altogether normal. I see nothing that may appear as tension or competition, as has been said.

[Dore] There was a lot of talk, for example, about the famous Soviet helicopter MI-25. Has it started? Did the experts manage to make it fly? Is it safely out of the way now?

[Habre] Indeed it has started, the engine was running, but the helicopter did not fly. It has indeed been put safely out of the way. This helicopter is doing very well, contrary to what has been said.

[Dore] I would like us to go back now to the situation in the field. The Libyan danger is still present because the Libyans are in the Aozou region. It seems that the Libyans also are present in the east, Sudan. How large do you consider the Libyan presence to be at this moment around Chad?

[Habre] Indeed, the Libyans still are present in the far north of Chad. They are, moreover, much more numerous south of the Aozou base. They are all around Bardai, not far from Bardai, not far from Yebbi-Bou. Sometimes the Libyan positions are

between 35 and 40 km away from the advance positions occupied by the Chadian National Armed Forces. Consequently, there is a large Libyan presence in the north of the country. This being said, it is extremely difficult to estimate its extent for the simple reason that reinforcements are arriving all the time. Therefore, the figures change virtually from 1 day to the next. Nevertheless, we could estimate more or less a presence of some 10,000 Libyan troops in this region.

[Dore] The question everyone is asking now, naturally, and which refers to the military aspect is: When will you start the operation for the reconquest of Aozou? Do you think this reconquest could be accomplished in the coming months or, given the large Libyan potential facing you, do you think this a much more difficult feat?

[Habre] On the Aozou region, just as in the rest of the country, we have a consistent stand regarding the recovery of national territorial integrity, which is to try to make the Libyans leave, preferably in a peaceful manner. We have always given priority to peaceful means. This being said, the Libyans, naturally, have never wished to act reasonably and that is what brought us to the confrontations we have witnessed. Regarding this region, our position remains the same. If the Libyans withdraw peacefully, it is a good thing. It is not only in the interest of the Chadian people but in the interest of the Libyan people as well. If, however, as everything leads us to believe at this moment, Libya intends not only to maintain (?its presence) by the use of force but also to resume offensive operations against Chad, well, in that case we will also be forced to prepare ourselves for this alternative.

[Dore] Which means, if I understand you properly, Mr President, that you do not intend to go out to reconquer the north immediately, that you favor diplomatic channels at the moment?

[Habre] I will not reply to that question, otherwise I would be revealing secrets about the matter. I will simply reply in two words: If the Libyans leave peacefully, that is a good thing; if they intend to wage war on us, we are preparing for this.

[Dore] At the moment the ad hoc committee of the OAU is preparing its report, which will be submitted to the OAU summit in a few days. Libya has refused to take part in this ad hoc committee. Do you think that this committee's work could be an advantage in the solution of the Chad-Libya dispute?

[Habre] The fact that Libya refuses to cooperate with the OAU ad hoc committee expresses Libya's warmongering: This is the first point. The second point is to know the extent of the OAU ad hoc committee's work; that is, it is important that the ad hoc committee's report and its work are such as to broadly enlighten, first the OAU and Africa, then international opinion. I think this is an important element in that, you will agree, there is a lot of confusion around this Aozou region, including on Radio France Internationale. Sometimes it is a region belonging to Libya, sometimes it is a region belonging to Chad, sometimes [words indistinct]. So you see, it is important that the ad hoc committee of the OAU, through its report and its work, can at least enlighten African and international public opinion.

[Dore] Do you favor taking the Chad-Libya dispute to the International Court of Justice at The Hague?

[Habre] With regard to solving international conflicts there are many peaceful methods. There can be direct dialogue between two countries, insofar as they show wisdom and goodwill to solve their problem in an intelligent way.

There are mediation processes, there are arbitration processes, and there is the International Court of Justice — but all that presupposes the goodwill of the states concerned. Often when people talk about the International Court of Justice, they talk as if thiscourt were akin to a state with jurisdiction. But the International Court of Justice can only be involved in a case if the states concerned submit this case and undertake to accept not only its jurisdiction but also to respect its verdict. Consequently we are far from this situation, all the more so since the Libyans have just said for the umpteenth time, that they will never go to the International Court of Justice. For us, the International Court of Justice, the OAU, the United Nations, mediation, arbitration — if a peaceful solution is accepted by Libya — we think this would spare much misfortune for our two countries and our two peoples.

[Dore] Mr President, you have said on several occasions that, if necessary, you would be ready to meet Colonel al-Qadhdhafi. Is this still the case, and how could such a meeting take place?

[Habre] It is still the case, and this expresses our goodwill, our availability, our desire to end a conflict which we consider to be useless and harmful to the interests of the Libyan and Chadian peoples. We are no longer — we think we are no longer as we were before, with the conquest of territories by force of arms, expansionism — all that is past. The great European powers were not able continue this — Great Britain, France, The Netherlands, Belgium, and others -- they renounced colonialism, and were forced to renounce it, shall we say, simply because history progresses and it cannot be stopped from progressing. Libya cannot do it; what it can do is prolong the misfortune, the bloodbaths, in a useless way and for years. But in the end it will necessarily, one way or another, be driven out of the country. Consequently why not spare our two peoples this useless bloodbath? This is why in Chad, on the subject of this situation and our responsibilities, we think that a dialogue can help to solve the problem, but there must be more than one person to want a meeting. As long as Al-Qadhdhafi does not want a meeting it will not take place. [passage omitted]

[Dore] Mr President, you have started a dialogue with Goukouni Oueddei, who has been in Algiers for a few months. This dialogue seems to be marking time. To what do you attribute the fact that, while it seems that it started off well, all of a sudden now, you seem to be going backwards?

[Habre] Indeed, the process of reconciliation is not easy. Discussions are laborious and long. However, we remain optimistic. Why are these discussions dragging on? There are certainly reasons, but we must say that, as much as the Chadians want these discussions to reach a conclusion as soon as possible, others are doing all they can so that they are not concluded.

[Dore] When you say others, you are thinking of the Libyans?

[Habre] Certainly, first and foremost of the Libyans, who are omnipresent all the time, [word indistinct] around the talks.

[Dore] It seems that among the conditions set by Goukouni Oueddei for his return to Ndjamena, a number of demands he made have been accepted by you, but in the second phase Goukouni hardened his position. Is this the correct analysis?

[Habre] There are, indeed, many conditions set by Goukouni, some conditions on which our two delegations reached agreement, others on which the discussions are continuing. I would say that the conditions which are causing problems for the discussions are those which are of a kind to call completely and totally into question the political system which governs us, and which bring us back practically to the Lagos system — in other words, the system of tendencies, of splitting up — not only of power, but also the splitting up of the country between small armed politico-military groups. So this would be a return to civil war, to chaos. This is what we do not want. But I think that, on both sides, with the help of wisdom, we hope to reach a compromise.

[Dore] If Goukouni were to return tomorrow to Ndjamena, what position would he have there?

[Habre] Well, Goukouni is a compatriot, a Chadian, he assumed responsibilities in the country in the past and he has his full and rightful place in this country.

[Dore] Mr President, you were speaking just now about the past political situation in Chad. I would like us to turn to the present and future situation. How do you see the sole party, UNIR, evolving? How do you see the prospect of organizing elections in Chad?

[Habre] First, UNIR is a sole party, if you wish, but in law it is not the only party. [Words indistinct] and this is important. For more than one generation, Chad has lived through the war, through unrest and insecurity and the occupation of part of its territory, the period of various trends, the disorganizing of the country, the destruction to some extent of the state which we were at pains to rebuild. All this leads to the fact that there are a number of priorities for this country, essential and vital priorities: Peace and security; national unity; and the setting up of all administrative, economic, social, and cultural structures so that the country can experience the recovery of its territorial integrity, for the enemy is still campaigning on our soil and occupying part of our country. It is an atmosphere of order and stability that the people should choose, first giving their views on the institutions and political systems they want, a democratic constitution, and based on this constitution to go on then to have elections, to set up institutions stemming from this constitution.

But, first of all, to achieve all this, peace, stability, and security are needed. Today we do not even know how many inhabitants Chad has. The last census was in 1967. Can you imagine? Almost 20 years ago. There was a semblance of a census in 1973 but not a real one. We must start from a real, specific situation in the country and not speak of elections purely and simply because elections are organized elsewhere. [passage omitted]

[Dore] There are some hopes and among them is oil — the oil found in the south, in the Mandum Valley, and also in the region of Lake Chad at Sidighi. How is the research in this sphere progressing, and where does aid come from? There was talk of constructing of a mini-refinery at Sidighi. What stage has been reached in this project?

[Habre] It is true that Chad has oil, but here again there is a terrible phenomenon in the world: the international economy. To be more precise the rich countries determine the good weather and the rain. With the collapse of raw materials prices, caused by those who control the markets, the companies were forced to reconsider their plans. However, negotiations continue with our partners, be they oil companies or the fund providers — particularly the World Bank — in order for the companies to resume their activities and also in order for Chad to be able to acquire a mini-refinery as soon as possible so that it can become self-sufficient in energy. For a country like Chad this is a very important element. [passage omitted]

[Dore] Mr President, I would like to turn now to the situation in Africa. I would like to ask you a question I think you have already been asked, but the reply you made was important. It is difficult to understand that many African states took so long to condemn the Libyan aggression in Chad, to even admit that it was an aggression. How can this be explained?

[Habre] This is explicable, however regrettable it may be, by the fact that each state has its problems, its difficulties, its interests; and each state must, or at least must consider, its own interests first. Then come the interests of others, and then those of Africa. If different things are said in speeches, this, unfortunately, is the reality.

Then I have to say that on this level, information has not always been of a nature to enlighten the various parties. There is also the aspect of indoctrination, which has often confused the issue. For a long time, you know, the physical presence of the Libyan Army in Chad was even denied. This is crude, but true. And often, even in the media, it was reported that there were no Libyan forces in Chad, or the situation was played down: They said there were a few individuals wandering around. So all this played a role — political affinities between different sides, the means at Libya's disposal — all this played a role. Do you not find it paradoxical, for example, that a country like Libya, with little more than a million inhabitants, a country which does not have a glorious past, and which on the technical and technological levels represents nothing, that this country, that Al-Qadhdhafi can play such a big role in Africa and in the world? This shows you the importance of money. [passage indistinct] This gentleman, without money, would have been of no interest to anyone. As a man, what is he? Nothing at all. But the whole world talks about this gentleman because he has money, and because he knows how to use his money to have himself talked about.

[Dore] Mr President, do you still have confidence in the OAU?

[Habre] I would say that despite its weaknesses it is an organization which is necessary for Africa, because it is a useful instrument in the context of the development of the liberation and unity of Africa, whatever its shortcomings. It is a beginning, and the history of nations, the history of peoples on different continents, is a long process. The fact that the OAU exists and the fact that the OAU is trying to do something, in the context of Africa and at the same time elsewhere, is a significant and important phenomenon in itself, whatever its setbacks and its weaknesses.

That said, we have no illusions with regard to the current situation of the OAU, with regard to its real capacity, its real ability to solve a conflict as big as the Chad-Libya conflict. But the OAU can help in searching for a solution.

[Dore] You are not really expecting anything from the next summit?

[Habre] Yes, why should we not? The OAU has already done something. Its ad hoc committee has met several times, even though Libya slammed the door, even though Libya snubbed the OAU by refusing to receive its envoys. The OAU is doing something. And the OAU has already done something by adopting resolutions on the Chad-Libya conflict, by making its ad hoc committee work on this conflict. I think that at its summit the OAU will be able to express its viewpoint, its position. Well, if the OAU expresses its viewpoint, this in itself is an important element. [passage omitted]

[Dore] A last question, Mr President, and it concerns the South Africa problem. Are you in favor of dialogue or firmness with South Africa?

[Habre] I do not think we should say that we will end apartheid by dialogue or that we can end apartheid by violence. I would say that any method is valid to destroy apartheid, violence as well as dialogue. Historically these two ways have always been closely linked and always used for large problems like that of apartheid.

[Dore] Thank you, Mr President.

Opposition Group To Resume Hostilities in South

AB091608 Paris AFP in French 1528 GMT 9 Jul 87

[Text] Brazzaville, 9 Jul (AFP) — The Chadian Revolutionary Movement (MRP — opposition) today issued a warning to the experts of UDEAC (Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa) who have been holding a committee meeting since 6 July in Moundou (south of Chad).

In a communique issued in Brazzaville (Congo), the "Southern Front High Command" has announced that it has decided to resume hostilities in southern Chad. It holds the view that the choice of Moundou as the venue for the UDEAC experts meeting "is only a mystification maneuver designed to make the international community believe that there is no more opposition in the south in particular, and in Chad in general." "Those who agreed to go to Moundou," the communique added, "are doing so at their own risk, because their safety is not fully guaranteed."

The opening session of the 45th experts meeting was presided over by Haroun Mahamat Abdoulaye, the Chadian minister of commerce and industry.

The MRP, a group formerly headed by southern Colonel Wadal Abdelkader Kamougue, has continued to publish a bulletin in Brazzaville, where it is established. Its officials claim that the movement still belongs to Acheikh ibn Oumar's Neo-GUNT.

President Receives Egyptian Minister Ghali

AB091148 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 9 Jul 87

[Excerpt] Yesterday at 2000, President El Hadj Hissein Habre received Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali for over an hour. The Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs presented the head of state with a message of friendship, solidarity, and brotherliness from President Husni Mubarak. The new perspectives for cooperation between Chad and Egypt, the attitude of the next OAU summit toward the Chad-Libya conflict, and the possible candidacy of President Husni Mubarak for the OAU chairmanship were among the issues discussed by Minister Butrus Ghali at his meeting with the head of state. [passage omitted]

Joint Committee Meetings Resume

NC091609 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 9 Jul 87

[Excerpt] Ndjamena, 9 Jul (MENA) — The meetings of the Egyptian-Chadian Joint Committee were resumed here today. Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, led the Egyptian delegation to the talks, while the Chadian representatives were headed by Lassou Guara, minister of foreign affairs.

During the session, the two delegations reviewed ways to promote economic, trade, and financial relations between the two countries, as well as methods of increasing production in various fields. Details of a program to increase technical, cultural, and scientific cooperation between the two countries and a possible contribution by Egypt to the reconstruction of Chad were also discussed.

Dr Ghali stated that his visit to Chad is a confirmation of the solidarity between the two countries and of Egypt's commitment to confront any aggression against Chadian territory. He also stressed Egypt's firm support for Chadian President Hissein Habre and for his efforts to preserve Chad's territorial integrity within the borders that have been internationally recognized ever since the country's independence. [passage omitted]

Habre Receives ADB Vice President for Talks

AB081212 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 8 Jul 87

[Text] The visit by African Development Bank [ADB] Vice President T. Gedamu is almost over. He was received yesterday afternoon for 40 minutes by the president of the Republic, El

Hadj Himeia Habre. After their meeting, the ADB vice president spoke to our reporters.

[Begin recording] [Gedamu] We discussed the possibility of increasing cooperation between the ADB and Chad in various fields. As you are aware, we have financed several projects in Chad. We have (?so far invested) $100 million in (?development) projects, [words indistinct] 50 percent of which are in the agricultural sector. [passage indistinct]

[Reporter] Indeed, Mr Vice President, the ADB has invested in several development projects in Chad. Are you satisfied with the work so far accomplished on these projects?

[Gedamu] [Words indistinct] we are going to tackle certain problems, certain problems concerning Chad and the ADB and certain problems which are not within the control of either the ADB or Chad. [passage indistinct] We intend to initiate other projects in future years.

[Reporter] Mr Vice President, you have just stated that the ADB intends to support all future projects. [Words indistinct] cooperation between Chad and the ADB?

[Gedamu] It is very positive, very positive. As you are aware, the ADB recently [words indistinct] large capital and we are currently negotiating the [words indistinct] of the African Development Fund. This fund will be of useful service to countries like Chad. I believe that the ADB's (?capital) will be increased considerably. This will enable us to examine problems in countries like Chad [words indistinct] [end recording]

You have just been informed that the ADB has granted 15 loans to Chad worth $100 million, 50 percent of which has been invested in the agricultural sector. This is proof of the ADB's determination to help the Chadian Government to achieve self-sufficiency in food production.

During his visit to our country, ADB Vice President T. Gedamu held talks with several Chadian officials, who presented him with a certain number of projects that fall within the framework of the 1986-1988 interim development plan. After these meetings, (T. Gedamu) said that the ADB will give [words indistinct] and financial support to the plan, especially to the plan for the rehabilitation of the Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti region. [passage indistinct]

Mubarak Meets With Israel's Peres in Geneva

NC091454 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1445 GMT 9 Jul 87

[Text] Geneva, 9 Jul (MENA) — Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at his place of residence in Geneva this afternoon. The meeting was also attended by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

Mubarak Comments on Meeting

NC092112 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Jul 87

[Remarks by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in response to questions by unidentified correspondent following Mubarak's meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Geneva on 9 July — recorded]

[Text][Correspondent] Your Excellency, can you tell us about the topics discussed at this meeting?

[Mubarak] When Mr Peres learned that I was coming to Geneva, he asked to see me. I naturally welcomed this request, because the peace process has become a sensitive issue. It is proceeding in a way that makes it incumbent upon us to seek cooperation and coordination, whether with the Israelis, our brother King Husayn, the PLO, or any other parties we can talk to. We discussed what can be done this year. We have to make full use of this year to drive the peace process forward, or at least to convene the international conference, which represents an umbrella under which we could enter into direct talks. An international conference does not mean all parties will conduct the talks in one session; rather it will lead to direct talks between the concerned parties separately, or otherwise as agreed upon.

There are obstacles facing the convocation of an international conference, such as the question of Palestinian representation and the role of the conference. However, I believe that these obstacles are not so difficult as to impede the drive. I also believe that with effort and perseverance it is always possible to achieve peace and to overcome these difficulties, so that we may arrive at a comprehensive peace for the entire region.

[Correspondent] Yesterday you met with Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state, who had earlier had a meeting with his Soviet counterpart. Do you believe that any progress was made at their meeting?

[Mubarak] After listening to Murphy and after receiving some other reports regarding the Soviets' views in this respect, I believe that the Soviets have shown flexibility toward the international conference, although they did express some reservations, according to my information. However, this flexibility is a good thing, because it raises hopes that the conference can be held and the issue solved.

[Correspondent] Then Your Excellency feels that there are solutions, or that matters have in fact started to move forward. Does the statement you made before your arrival here, that the conference could be held in Geneva, indicate that there is hope that the conference is rapidly drawing nearer?

[Mubarak] There is hope. We must live in hope. I have said I hope 1987 will be the year of peace. We are trying. I hope to God that the conference will start before the end of this year, so that we can reach the shore of security and peace with regard to our problem, now entering its 40th year.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency, you said in your statement that you have agreed in principle that Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid...

[Mubarak, interrupting] The Israeli prime minsiter wrote to me about inviting Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid to visit Israel to discuss the international conference. There is nothing in this. I am not opposed to it. I am opposed to obstacles being placed in the way of the peace process. Shim'on Peres, vice premier and foreign minister, also confirmed and renewed the invitaiton to Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid. I agreed, but we have to decide on the date according to circumstances. It could be within the framework of dialogue, exchange of information, and coordination, enabling us to reach a common understanding of what the international conference entails.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency will be delivering a speech tomorrow to the UNCTAD conference. Then you will meet with President Francois Mitterrand. There are naturally some issues to be dealt with at these talks, economic matters, for example. Mitterrand has spoken of a Marshall Plan for the Third World. Will yes be discussing current economic and political issues?

[Mubarak] Our relations with President Mitterrand are good and our ties and cooperation with France could not be better. There are no better relations than these. Naturally, when I knew President Mitterrand was coming here, we agreed to meet. We are used to meeting from time to time. There are political issues to discuss. I will see his proposal, its scope, and its details. I have great respect for French-Egyptian cooperation, for President Mitterrand, and for Prime Minister Jacques Chirac.

MENA Reports Peres' Remarks

NC091910 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1830 GMT 9 Jul 87

[Text] Geneva, 9 Jul (MENA) — Following his 2-hour meeting with President Husni Mubarak here today, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that he had come out of this meeting with a feeling that more progress had been made with regard to the problems impeding the peace process.

Peres added: I say that this does not mean all the problems have been resolved. When we met in Alexandria last year we said we should make 1987 the year of peace. He continued: This year is not yet over. Some sort of progress has been made during the first part of the year. As an example he pointed out that a kind of clarity of vision has been attained with regard to the possibility of holding direct negotiations for solving the peace problem in the Middle East.

In his statements to representatives of the press and world news agencies, Peres said that he had had extremely constructive talks with President Mubarak lasting for 2 hours. He added: We are in fact dealing with a very complicated issue. We believe that we have achieved progress. There are some difficulties but we hope to resolve them.

Peres noted that there is a U.S. document that reflects the common views of Jordan, Egypt, and Israel.

On the question of Palestinian representation at the conference, Peres said: The present document, which is called the U.S. document, notes that there should be Palestinian representation, that this representation should be through a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, and that whoever wants to take part in this conference must recognize Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, renounce terrorism and violence, and deal with the Palestinian issue through the Jordanian-Palestinian framework. He added that he believes this reflects the views of Jordan, the United States, and "all of us in Israel."

Peres referred to President Mubarak's nomination for a second term in office and stressed that this would increase stability and the possibility of achieving peace in the Middle East.

Replying to a question on whether he had come to Geneva for talks with President Mubarak in his capacity as leader of the Israeli Labor Party, Shim'on Peres said: I am a member of the Israeli Government, a vice premier and foreign minister.

Further Reportage From Geneva

For further reportage on President Husni Mubarak's activities in Geneva, Switzerland, while attending the Seventh UNCTAD meeting, see the International Affairs section of the 9 July West Europe *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

Response to Sudanese Prime Minister's Remarks

NC091425 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Jul 87

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jul (MENA) — An official source has told MENA that Egypt has repeatedly made it clear that it will only insist on upholding the joint defense agreement with Sudan as long as Sudan wants this agreement upheld. The source, who was responding to recent remarks by Sudanese Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi on Egyptian-Sudanese issues, asserted: If the Sudanese prime minister wants the agreement abrogated, he should state this openly and officially.

Al-Mahdi yesterday told the Sudanese paper *Al-Rayah* that there are some disputes over security issues between Egypt and Sudan. Sudan, Al-Mahdi said, does not endorse Egyptian views on Libya or Libyan views on Egypt. The Sudanese prime minister added that Sudan and Egypt are cooperating in certain security matters on which both countries agree, leaving aside controversial aspects. Al-Mahdi noted that the brotherhood accord with Egypt had not yet been discussed in detail.

The official source said: It is astonishing that the Sudanese prime minister should make such remarks. There was no occasion and no tangible reason for him to do so.

The official Egyptian source added that in his press statements Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi often appears to view the joint defense agreement between the two countries in a negative light, as though Egypt had imposed it on Sudan. This is far from being the case, the source stated.

The source noted that Egypt has repeatedly explained that it will insist on upholding the agreement only so long as Sudan wants it upheld. If Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi wishes to revoke this agreement, let him say so openly and officially. We will not hesitate to respond to such a demand.

The source added: As regards the brotherhood agreement, the Sudanese prime minister should know this was not proposed by Egypt. Rather, it resulted from a Sudanese initiative. Our brothers in Khartoum have not informed us that studies are underway to discuss the details of this agreement. However, where all these matters are concerned, Egypt believes the eternal relations between Egypt and Sudan take priority over all legal forms and formulas. The official source further noted it was not Egypt's idea that the relations of either side with Libya or any other country should constitute a factor in Egyptian-Sudanese relations. Egypt believes each country has the right to establish relations with any other country in accordance with its outlook and interest. Therefore, Egypt leaves fraternal Sudan to define the course of its relations with any country in the world in whatever way it deems appropriate. This point has never been a subject of argument or controversy between the two countries.

Concluding his statement, the source said the unjustified discussion of certain topics in the press, implying that these topics are matters of dispute between Egypt and Sudan, does not serve relations between the two countries. It is also at variance with the traditions that have been established over long years of joint action.

Sudanese Party Officials Arrive

NC091652 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1435 GMT 9 Jul 87

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jul (MENA) — Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of the Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party and head of the Al-Khatmiyah sect, arrived in Cairo at noon today, leading a large delegation on a 1-week visit to Egypt.

In an arrival statement, Al-Mirghani said his visit forms part of the continuing efforts to bolster the fraternal relations and ties between Egypt and Sudan. He hoped President Muhammad Husni Mubarak would respond to the invitation extended to him to visit Sudan. Al-Mirghani noted that Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi's trip to Sudan in September will have a positive impact on the course of the eternal relations between the two sisterly states. He stated that the purpose of his visit to Egypt is not to engage in one-upmanship but to consolidate the traditions and concepts that have linked the two countries for years. He pointed out that reports on the abrogation of the Egyptian-Sudanese joint defense agreement are untrue, adding that the Sudanese Government,

the Democratic Unionist Party, and the Al-Ummah Party are all trying to conclude more comprehensive and progressive agreements in order to achieve the long-term defense objectives of the two countries. Such agreements would further strengthen defense and security relations in the Nile Valley.

Dr Ahmad al-Sayyid Hamad, a member of the Political Bureau of the Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party who is accompanying Al-Mirghani, has stated that the joint defense agreement between the two countries came into being to boost the natural affinity between the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples. He added that the two countries enjoy a common destiny and security and that any danger to Egypt's security would also be a danger to that of Sudan.

He noted that what is being said about the agreement is nothing more than one-upmanship, and pointed out that this agreement is still in force and represents a commitment on the part of each of the two governments. He affirmed that the joint defense agreement is a necessity, in case either country is subjected to foreign threats. He added that the leader of the Democratic Unionist Party firmly believes this agreement should be developed and consolidated as a prelude to the unification of Egyptian and Sudanese military and political action, because continued movement in this direction would safeguard the security of the two countries. Ahmad al-Sayyid Hamad demanded that all restrictions and impediments that obstruct political and economic movement between the two fraternal countries be removed. He also urged the abolition of all legal controls preventing nationals of either country from enjoying the right of residence in the other.

'Abd al-Majid Discusses Gulf War, Iranian Diplomat

JN091047 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0933 GMT 9 Jul 87

[Excerpts] Cairo, 9 Jul (INA) — 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has lauded Egyptian-Iraqi relations saying that they are extremely good.

In an exclusive statement to INA, 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid expressed Egypt's admiration for the steadfastness of the Iraqi people in their dual battle of confronting the Iranian hegemonist policy and internal construction. [passage omitted]

Referring to developments in the Gulf and the escalation of the Iranian regime's threats to area countries, 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said that Egypt is opposed to the war's continuation, internationalization, and expansion. He asserted that the escalation and expansion of the tension and threat to international peace and security in such a strategic part of the world does not serve the interests of any country.

Referring to terrorist acts carried out by diplomatic missions abroad, the Egyptian foreign minister said: "It was clearly confirmed to us several weeks ago that a former Iranian diplomat in Cairo had abused his diplomatic immunity and carried out contacts outside the scope of his accepted duties. He exceeded the internationally recognized diplomatic norms by interfering in purely Egyptian international affairs. We therefore had to put an end to his work in Cairo."

The Egyptian foreign minister affirmed Egypt's rejection of the attempts by the rulers of Iran to spread their ideas to other countries. He said these rulers can carry out the policies they want in their own countries, but they do not have the right to export such ideas to other countries.

'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid added: Egyptian national security is indivisible from pan-Arab security, for both are very much interlinked. Whatever affects one Arab country positively or negatively affects the entire Arab homeland.

Wafd Party Stance on Mubarak Nomination Explained

PM091355 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 6 Jul 87 pp 1, 11

[Mustafa Shardi article: "Egypt...the Decisionmaker"]

[Excerpts] The Wafd Party's decision to abstain from voting to nominate President Husni Mubarak for a second presidential term was not made emotionally or for no reason at all. Indeed, it was a decision dictated by the Wafd's principles, the will of the broad masses, and the interests of the nation and the homeland. Although I have attended most of the meetings of the Wafd's highest committee over the last 4 years and listened to those men — who deservedly occupied prominent places in the arenas of politics, the economy, and the law — deeply discussing Egypt's problems in a sincere, scientific, and patriotic way, I have never experienced a meeting like those held to discuss the party's position on the nomination of President Mubarak for a second term. [passage omitted]

If I may offer an opinion, the Wafd's decision, which I understand, was not directed against anyone in particular but was issued against practices that contravene the Wafd's principles and have considerably harmed Egypt over the past 6 years. Husni Mubarak may be completely innocent of these practices, but eventually responsibility for them will fall on his shoulders, despite the fact that they were committed by his men, aides, advisers, and ministers. It is Mubarak who selects them all. So, their achievements are listed among the positive aspects of his era and their gross errors and sins will fall on his shoulders. This is the fate of any leader or president; though it is a harsh fate, it is the price of leadership and presidency everywhere.

If I am, once again, allowed to reveal the nature of the discussions that took place during the Wafd's meetings over the last few days, I would say that all the positive points of Mubarak's era were in fact carefully, fairly, and deeply discussed. The same went for the errors and negative aspects. It was clear right from the beginning that the negative aspects outweighed the positive and that to reach a balance would be a remote possibility. Since all the participants realized they were not discussing the situation of a public company or establishment but the problems of a homeland, interests of a nation, destiny of a people, and future of a generation, it did not occur to any participants at all to think of being amiable.

If I am also allowed to make a remark as an Egyptian citizen, I would tell President Mubarak that the numerous mistaken attitudes and bad practices committed by those who call themselves political leaders in this country have doubled since the nomina-

tion of the president for a second presidential term. The greatest error is that they failed to advise the president — although their main duty is to provide advice and consultation — to address the People's Assembly before the nomination session or even to appear on television to deliver a statement to the nation specifying the positive and negative aspects of the past stage and defining his program, measures, and intentions for the next presidential term. [passage omitted]

We had hoped to hear the president specify the reasons for the deterioration in the economy and the effective plans to be implemented in order to correct the course so as to save Egypt and extricate it from its severe crisis, now violently crushing every home, and define a policy for dealing with the disastrous debts. [passage omitted]

Egypt is in urgent need of comprehensive political, economic, a social reform. The Egyptian people have the right to hear fr the president of the Republic personally about a program of reform before he prepares to embark on a second term so that they can go to the referendum ballot with this knowledge, certain of their choice. [passage omitted]

Finally, we had hoped the advisers would be prompted, through loyalty to the homeland and President Mubarak, to urge him to take some steps expressing his intentions for the next presidential stage. These would include opening prison gates and freeing every detainee who has been proved innocent by the judiciary, and asking him who sits on the platform of the People's Assembly [the speaker] to respect the rulings of the judiciary regarding legitimate representatives. This refers to true representatives actually elected by the people, who were replaced and left out of parliament because [election] results were tampered with. We had hoped President Mubarak would announce the beginning of his second presidential term without emergency laws but under an umbrella of security for all people who respect the law. The picture at present is very ugly since the security apparatus has turned into a terrorist organization, the dawn callers have returned to terrify people in their homes day and night, and the torturers are again thriving inside prisons. I believe the torture of a single citizen inside a prison, even if he is guilty, threatens freedom and democracy in Egypt. [passage omitted]

Security Chief Plays Down Terrorist Attacks

PM091639 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 8-14 Jul 87 p 11

[Interview with Major General Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Musa, Egyptian deputy interior minister and director of public security, by Siham 'Abd al-Al in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] ['Abd al-'Al] Egypt has witnessed three terrorist incidents in less than 1 month, which has prompted some people to say that Egypt is suffering from political and security defects. What is your opinion?

[Musa] As long as there is a human society there will be crimes, since this is human nature, and this is what the police force, the public prosecutors, and the courts are for. As for the succession of terrorist incidents, only three have occurred recently; and this does not mean there is a defect in the security element. U.S. President John Kennedy was assassinated while surrounded by the most powerful security apparatus in the world; the U.S. president was shot despite possessing the toughest security. However, elements still operate and exist.

['Abd al-'Al] Despite the fact that hundreds of suspect members of extremist groups have been arrested, another terrorist attempt took place. Is this not proof of the extent of terrorism in Egypt?

[Musa] There is no terrorism in Egypt in the form portrayed by some. Terrorism exists throughout the world. The occurrence of three attempts is not evidence of terrorism, since everyone living on Egyptian soil is enjoying security and safety and can go out whenever he wants, whereas the opposite is true of some states in the region, which are threatened by terrorism all the time. The authorities in France have allowed people to carry guns, but, praise God, not a single Egyptian or foreigner living in Egypt has requested a gun licence.

['Abd al-'Al] There is information indicating that a comprehensive survey has been carried out on officers ranking from lieutenant to major who were on leave when the terrorist incidents took place, since there is a possibility that some elements were involved in such incidents.

[Musa] Nothing like this has taken place; the ministry did not call back any officers from leave. Every section in the ministry is working in its field and will continue to do so. As for the sections dealing with such incidents, these are operating calmly and actively in order to identify the perpetrators.

['Abd al-'Al] Does the organization apprehended and investigated by the public prosecution service include elements from the Armed Forces?

[Musa] The organization that was apprehended comprises members from the Al-Jihad Organization who were tried in the past and have once again returned to perform their activities in an attempt to overthrow the regime by force. A large number of detainees were released because of the lack of evidence against them; they did not include elements from the Armed Forces.

['Abd al-'Al] There is information indicating that those arrested in connection with the assassination attempt against Hasan Abu Basha, former interior minister, did in fact in include elements from the Armed Forces.

[Musa] The prosecution office in Al-Jizah is currently investigating the perpetrators of the assassination attempt on Abu Basha, who include no elements from the Armed Forces; in fact the public prosecution service confirmed that these are three or four recruits, not officers, who belong to extremist groups.

['Abd al-'Al] The U.S. Embassy has provided the security services with information that indicates that the assassination attempt against its diplomats was carried out by individuals from the Armed Forces. Is this true?

[Musa] It is the political security apparatus which should be questioned about this.

['Abd al-'Al] Do you believe the strike against the extremists was launched too late, since these groups have managed to reorganize their activities efficiently and grow stronger?

[Musa] The question of launching strikes at the extremist religious groups could not be carried out in this manner. Enquiries and investigations are conducted regarding any groups that violate the law or any law-breaking activity. No group is prosecuted unless there is evidence that it has committed an act punishable by law or there are programs, plans, or evidence confirming intentions to carry out an operation or commit a crime. The security organs' role here is to prevent crime before it actually takes place. I do not believe we delayed in striking at the extremists; this is a security measure, and there is no need to discuss it.

['Abd al-'Al] During the search for the perpetrators of the assassination attempt against former Interior Minister Hasan Abu Basha, you discovered that more than one organization was in fact planning to carry out terrorist and violent acts. It seems that these organizations were discovered by mere accident.

[Musa] The security services are working constantly, searching for suspect elements. There are records of those who are a danger to security; there are also constant enquiries. Let us take the Abu Basha incidents as an example: Enquiries began at the scene of the crime, and evidence was found; namely, a soft drink bottle in a kiosk. Security men then began their search for the suspects and actually arrested the perpetrators, who turned out to be members of the Al-Jihad Organization. As for the organizations you are talking about, there is information now available to security services. As to whether the organization is planning to carry out some acts, this is likely. Since the organization was prosecuted before carrying out any acts or achieving any of its objectives, this in itself proves the security services were monitoring the situation from start to finish and, therefore, were able to expose these organizations long before they achieved any of their objectives.

['Abd al-'Al] The security services have discovered a pro-Iranian organization, which was the reason for the Foreign Ministry's decision to close down the Iranian Interests Office in Cairo. What are the dimensions of this organization?

[Musa] It is the political security apparatus that should be questioned about this matter.

['Abd al-'Al] Is Egypt's security assured?

[Musa] Certainly. It is is very assured; we say this is so in comparison with the situation in other areas around us.

First of Mirage 2000 Aircraft Arrives 9 Jul

NC091535 Cairo MENA in English 1500 GMT 9 Jul 87

[Text] Cairo, July 9 (MENA) — The first Mirage 2000 plane of a batch the delivery of which had been delayed arrived at an Egyptian Air Force base this afternoon.

This was announced by Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production. Other planes will arrive successively, he said.

Abu Ghazalah said the French Government had agreed during his visit to Paris not to link delivery of the Mirage planes to military debts.

The field marshal said there were no difficulties in receiving spare parts for the Mirage planes.

This question has been settled, he said. The defence chief made the statements when he attended today the termination of a training course on the Mirage 2000 at an Egyptian air base here today.

Abu Ghazalah said the remaining American-made E-2C early warning planes would arrive in Egypt shortly.

Egyptian crews have completed their training and the Egyptian air control and early warning system was proceeding according to plan.

The two planes already received by Egypt have entered service as part of an overall system for monitoring and warning, he said.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah praised the standard of the group of Mirage pilots who completed their training today.

They were the first group to receive training in Egypt at the hands of Egyptian instructors.

Release of National Party Leader Ghabbush Denied

JN091127 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1050 GMT 9 Jul 87

[Text] Khartoum, 9 Jul (SUNA) — Attorney General 'Abd al-Mahmud al-Haj Salih has denied that a decree has been issued freeing the accused Phillip 'Abbas Ghabbush, leader of the Sudanese National Party. The independent daily *Al-Sudani* had reported that Harun Adam, secretary of the Sudanese National Party, had handed the paper a statement in the name of lawyers declaring that Ghabbush was released and lauding the judiciary's decision. Adam also made a statement saying that Ghabbush had been released and praising the judiciary's integrity.

Armed Forces Destroy Rebel Camps in Bahr al-Ghazal

JN091201 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1058 GMT 9 Jul 87

[Text] Khartoum, 9 Jul (SUNA) — The Armed Forces carried out intensive military activity in various parts of the southern region during the past 2 weeks to hunt down rebels and destroy their camps and thereby protect residential areas.

In addition to reporting this today, the newspaper *Al-Ummah*, organ of the Ummah Party, also noted that the Armed Forces had stormed and burned two outlaw camps in the Bahr al-Ghazal region. They destroyed Lol Kol Camp north of the city of Waw. The Armed Forces also clashed with a larger group of rebels in (Aqam al-Layl), west of Gogrial, killing three rebels and wounding several others.

State Council Member Sees No Danger of Coup

PM091023 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 2 Jul 87 p 9

[Interview with 'Ali Taj al-Din, member of the State Council, by Hamdi 'Abd al-Sadiq in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts][Passage omitted]['Abd al-Sadiq] Does the question of Ja'far al-Numayri's extradition still constitute an important factor or obstacle in Egyptian-Sudanese relations?

[Taj al-Din] To us Ja'far al-Numayri is a criminal in every way. He committed crimes against his own people and usurped the Sudanese Constitution through his coup in 1969 — a crime for which punishment is stipulated by the Sudanese Constitution under which protectors of Al-Numayri's regime were tried. Al-Numayri committed economic crimes; suffice it to say that Sudan did not owe any debts to anyone before the Al-Numayri coup. [passage omitted]

I can assure you that the question of Al-Numayri's extradition is no longer an obstacle in the way of our relations. However, if Egypt decides to extradite him, he will be justly tried for specific crimes. We are not now talking with our Egyptian brothers about Al-Numayri; there are more important things to discuss. [passage omitted]

['Abd al-Sadiq] Since a great deal has been heard about Egyptian-Sudanese relations through official statements, declarations, and documents, I have begun to sense some obscurity shrouding all of this: integration, then coolness, then a brotherhood charter, and so on. Neither the people in Egypt or inSudan have ever asked or ever will ask anyone to help them tomaintain their natural relations. Can you provide an official clarification to eliminate this obscurity?

The Sudanese State Council member answered warmly and clearly:

[Taj al-Din] It would be repetitious to continue talking about ties between Egypt and Sudan which have been maintained over thousands of years and will continue to be maintained until the end of the world. If there is talk of a coolness in relations, this sometimes takes place, but only at official levels. However, natural relations between the two peoples have not been interrupted since they are above figures, political systems, and personal disputes; we are one people and one nation. We in Sudan have at least 1 million square km of cultivable land, and we believe that the experience of the Egyptian farmer and Egyptian agricultural technology are capable of playing a role in this field. We politicians in both Egypt and Sudan are required to embody these expansive ties. I can only comprehend integration through the marketing of joint Sudanese-Egyptian products in both countries' markets. [passage omitted]

['Abd al-Sadiq] You are burdened with debts. How are you dealing with such a situation? Are you considering the suspension of settlement? On whom do you now depend to secure economic aid?

[Taj al-Din] This is a multifaceted question. Sudan belongs to what is known as the states of the South or the Group of 77 which maintain a dialogue with the states of the rich North. Our economic crisis is part of an economic crisis that includes African and Arab states, although we had huge capabilities and resources which were wasted because of political confusion that led us into two kinds of debt: Trade debts owed to what is known as the "Paris Club," and debts owed to international establishments for financing. Terms in both cases are severe. The African states were in fact self-sufficient in the 19th century, yet now Africa depends on foreign food aid and food grants simply to have enough to eat! [passage omitted]

As for the settlement of debts, we will not suspend payments. All that we want is for the debts to be rescheduled. We have in fact begun to pay some installments this year.

['Abd al-Sadiq] How are Sudan's relations with the two superpowers at present?

[Taj al-Din] Under the democratic system in Sudan we see ourselves as a state surrounded by nine Arab and African states, all of which have their own problems. We believe that Sudan can only protect itself diplomatically. One-tenth of Sudan's population is in fact made up of African refugees: 1.25 million Ugandans and 150,000 Chadians. Although they constitute a problem, we cannot abandon them. Our foreign policy is based on peaceful coexistence with neighbors, noninterference in their internal affairs, peaceful settlement of disputes, avoidance of international military conflicts, and noninvolvement in bloc policies. It is difficult for a poor country to maintain all this. However, we always try to adhere to the nonalignment policy and

support states which are confronting racism. We are also committed to the Palestinian people's return to their homeland to establish their own state. We do not discuss Camp David; Egypt has its own circumstances. There is no justification for our recognizing Israel at present. Egypt is committed to the Palestinian cause just as we are.

['Abd al-Sadiq] What about the problem of the south? Are you still relying on a military solution to the problem? Is there any response from John Garang to work toward a peaceful solution to the problem?

[Taj al-Din] I do not believe that the problem of the south is a problem of race or religion, as it is portrayed by some. Wealth and authority must be shared. We are not suffering a unique problem, since Chad has suffered a problem in the south and the north; Biafra in Nigeria, Shaba Province in Zaire, and others also suffer problems. Colonialism played an active role in worsening the backwardness of the south; a lack of trust resulted between the two parts of Sudan. Since we have a democratic system we called and still call for a constitutional conference to sit down with Garang and work toward finding a solution to the problem of the south. In fact we established a ministry for peace with a view to finding a peaceful solution to the problem. We are preparing for such a conference, but the problems between us and Ethiopia tend to prevent John Garang from making a final decision! [passage omitted]

['Abd al-Sadiq] Is the Muslim Brotherhood in Sudan pressuring the Sudanese Government to cancel the September laws relating to the Islamic Shari'ah?

[Taj al-Din] The Muslim Brotherhood in Sudan is comfortable and easy to deal with; the alternative laws, as in the economy, are purely national issues. All political forces have participated in discussing this matter, and the constitutional parliamentary majority has agreed on a charter for the next stage by canceling the September laws. Any violation of this would be considered a violation of constitutionality and democracy. The Muslim Brotherhood may have its own views, but there is a commitment to what the majority of Sudanese political forces have agreed; the difference is perhaps over application only.

['Abd al-Sadiq] The desire for the democratic process in Sudan raises fears that Sudan could be subject to another military coup. What is your opinion?

[Taj al-Din] That is not in my outlook at all, and I know Sudan's situation well. Sudan has experienced dictatorship. The Sudanese Armed Forces are currently fighting in the south for the sake of Sudanese unity. So the adventure of a military coup would require a military gone mad to stab at the forces in the north so as to rule the capital and then a country that had inherited a heavy legacy of burdens! The people are in fact participating through democracy in the administration of Sudan's affairs. In fact, Sudan enjoys a freedom that at one point had reached a state of chaos: A total of 39 parties has now been reduced to 11; the number of newspapers has been reduced to 38. The people are criticizing everything in complete freedom. So what reason is there for a military coup? Anyway, the Sudanese people are experiencing all this.

['Abd al-Sadiq] Are there any political prisoners in Sudan at present?

[Taj al-Din] How can we have detainees? It is the law which regulates all Sudanese affairs; it is the judiciary which makes final decisions regarding all cases. Not a single paper has been prevented from publication despite excesses. We have now bid farewell forever to emergency measures and laws.

Sfar Holds Talks With Algerian Delegation

LD101002 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 10 Jul 87

[Text] Prime Minister Rachid Sfar met with Smail Hamdani, member of the FLN Central Committee and secretary general of the Algerian Foreign Ministry, at the government palace in Casbah this morning.

Mr Hamdani is leading a delegation that will hold consultations at various levels in order to prepare for the greater joint Tunisian-Algerian committee to be held in Algiers early this fall.

The meeting was attended by Slaheddine Baly, minister of national defense; Taieb Sahbani, secretary of state delegate to the foreign minister; Mohammed Chaker, Tunisia's ambassador to Algeria, and Messaoud Ait Chaalal, Algerian ambassador to Tunisia.

Libya To Restart Pension Payments to Tunisians

LD061628 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Jul 87

[Text] A communique issued by the National Fund for Social Security has announced that in implementation of the agreements reached during the Tunisian-Libyan talks which took place in Tunis in March 1987 concerning the granting to Tunisians of social security funds owed them, the Libyan Social Security Fund has transferred the amounts of money covering old age pensions and work accidents. The Libyan fund had not made any payments since 1985. The National Fund for Social Security will pay these amounts to those entitled to them on an emergency basis.

Those entitled to these pensions should get in touch with the National Fund for Social Security, bringing with them their pension cards. They should go directly either to the headquarters of the regional office of the fund in Tunis at 21 El-Idrissi Street, or to the regional offices of the National Fund for Social Security in every governorate of the republic. It must be emphasized that the matter concerns only those Tunisian men and women who have a pension and who are residents in the national territory and have not received these pensions since 1985. It does not apply to any other person.

Earthquake Registered in Majaz Al Bab Region

LD031435 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Jul 87

[Text] Tunis, 3 Jul (TAP) — Seismographic stations of the Tunisian National Institute of Metereology recorded an earth tremor at 0755 [0655 GMT] today.

According to preliminary information, the epicenter of the earthquake was situated at 36.65 degrees north and and [figure indistinct] east in the Majaz Al Bab area in the northwestern region of the country.

The tremor registered 4.5 on the Richter scale and was felt by the majority of people in the town of Majaz Al Bab.

KUWAIT

Ministers Leave for Visits to Africa, Indonesia

LD091048 Kuwait KUNA in English 0924 GMT 9 Jul 87

[Text] Kuwait, July 9 (KUNA) — Kuwaiti envoy, Minister of Oil Shaykh 'Ali Al-Khalifa Al-Sabah left here Thursday starting an African tour that covers Ghana, Nigeria, and Senegal, to deliver messages from H.H. the Amir to the presidents of those countries.

'Ali al-Khalifa told KUNA today that his tour comes within Kuwait's drive to explain to those states the Gulf situation in the light of the recent developments in the region.

Meanwhile, Minister of State for Services Affairs 'Isa al-Mazidi, currently on an Asian tour, visited Indonesia and conveyed a message from H.H. the Amir to the Indonesian president.

Al-Mazidi headed today for Brunei for the same purpose. Al-Mazidi's tour to Asia also included Malaysia and Bangladesh.

QATAR

Sudan's Al-Mahdi Comments on Regional Issues

JN090930 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 9 Jul 87

[Text] Doha, 8 Jul (WAKH) — Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has stated that his current tour of the region seeks to explain and discuss the domestic issues preoccupying his country, particularly the sedition in southern Sudan and the issue of development. He will also review issues of mutual interest in the Islamic, Arab, and African fields.

In a press conference held here this evening and reported by QNA, the Sudanese prime minister, who is currently visiting Doha, said that his country has ideas and views on what must be done vis-a-vis the estrangement [among Arab countries in general] which has weakened the Arab stand. He explained that these ideas are part of a call for an intellectual forum in which conferees will discuss Arab issues and present working papers that will contribute to clearing the atmosphere among Arab states in order to pave the way for a unified Arab stand.

Concerning Sudan's stand and efforts to find a solution to the Iraq-Iran war, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi reasserted his country's interest in, and adherence to, the need to exert efforts to stop this war. He stated that his country will take advantage of its relations to achieve this goal out of its Arab and Islamic affiliation. He expressed the belief that neither party to this conflict will attain a decisive goal at the expense of the other because war as a whole is destructive to both parties and to the Islamic world. He urged the two sides to end the conflict and live in peace for the sake of their countries' and region's welfare. The Sudanese prime minister said signs indicate the need for a unified Arab stand on the Iraq-Iran war and on the need to stop it in view of numerous factors.

Concerning the situation in southern Sudan, Al-Sadiq Al-Mahdi said that much has been done toward solving the southern Sudanese problem within the framework of a constitutional national conference after the government, in cooperation with political forces, managed to formulate and define the disputed points to be raised in such a conference. He explained that his government has taken practical steps on the road to solving the Sudanese economic problems following an increased rate of development and increased food stockpiles.

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi also urged the Arab nation to achieve Arab solidarity, particularly during the present stage, in order to reach agreement on finding appropriate solutions to a number of Arab problems, led by the Middle East issue, the Iraq-Iran war, the situation in Lebanon, and secondary Arab differences. He pointed out that the idea of convening an international Middle East peace conference is being promoted, despite the Israeli intransigence, in light of the international support for this issue. He did, however, express the belief that the key to solving most Arab problems is in Arab hands and in Arab solidarity.

In an interview with Qatari television this evening, the Sudanese prime minister commented on the situation in the Red Sea region and the international threats to it. He explained that last April his country had announced an initiative to achieve peace in the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea in order to spare this region the danger of threats and foreign interference. He renewed the call on all Red Sea littoral states to meet and agree on a peace plan to ensure security and stability in the region and to achieve freedom of international navigation, including all littoral states, away from the possibilities of foreign military confrontations.

Al-Mahdi affirmed the stability of the general situation in Sudan and described the political situation as heading toward democracy and accord among parties and away from confrontations. He pointed out that his government had recently reached a memorandum of understanding with the political forces in southern Sudan which are members of the government. He voiced the government's readiness to reach accord with the rebel forces in southern Sudan on the condition that they abandon their subservience to foreign forces and sit at the negotiating table to work out solutions to all problems related to the situation in southern Sudan. Al-Mahdi disclosed a Sudanese Government plan for solving the southern Sudanese problem from the political, security, and economic aspects.

Meeting With Mubarak, Mengistu 'Premature'

JN091202 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 9 Jul 87

[Text] Doha, 9 Jul (SUNA) — Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi announced here yesterday that talk about a tripartite summit with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam during the coming African summit in Addis Ababa is premature.

Al-Mahdi pointed out that the subject of his leading the Sudanese delegation to the African summit has not yet been decided. At a news conference held at Marmara Palace here, Al-Mahdi pointed out that he has received an invitation from the Ethiopian president to visit Ethiopia in September. He said that he had

received the invitation during the Ethiopian information minister's recent visit to Sudan. The prime minister and his accompanying delegation arrived early yesterday on the third leg of their current Arab tour which includes Iraq, Kuwait, the UAE, and Saudi Arabia.

The talks between the two sides began yesterday after the arrival of the Sudanese delegation. The Sudanese side was led by Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, prime minister and defense minister, and the Qatari side by Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah al Thani, deputy amir of Qatar, heir apparent, and defense minister.

SAUDI ARABIA

Ethiopian Foreign Minister Arrives in Jeddah

LD091303 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1055 GMT 9 Jul 87

[Text] Jeddah, 9 Jul (SPA) — His Excellency Bayih Berhanu, member of the Politburo and minister of foreign affairs in Ethiopia, arrived in Jeddah this afternoon on a 4-day visit to the Kingdom.

The Ethiopian minister was greeted at King 'Abd al-'Aziz International Airport in Jeddah by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, minister of Foreign affairs; Ambassador 'Isa al-Nuwaysar, head of protocol at the Foreign Ministry; Salih al-'Anbari, head of the Africa department at the Foreign Ministry; Hamid Yahia, Saudi Ambassador to Ethiopia; 'Abd al-Manam Ahmad, Ethiopian ambassador to the Kingdom; Flight Lieutenant General Salih al-Sudays, commander of the western region; and a number of officials from the Foreign Ministry.

Sudanese Prime Minister Arrives in Jeddah

LD091313 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1120 GMT 9 Jul 87

[Text] Jeddah, 9 Jul, SPA — Sudanese Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi arrived in Jeddah this afternoon on a visit to the Kingdom.

He was greeted at King 'Abd al-'Aziz International Airport in Jeddah by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud ibn 'Abd al-Muhsin, deputy amir of Mecca region; 'Abd al-'Aziz Jukhdar, head of royal protocol in Jeddah; Flight Lieutenant General Salih al-Sudays, commander of the western region; Sami Maqbul, director general of the King 'Abd al-'Aziz International Airport; 'Abd al-Muhsin al-Sudayri, Saudi ambassador to Sudan; 'Isa Mustafa Salama, Sudanese ambassador to the Kingdom; and a number of other officials.

YAR

Saudi Defense Minister Comments on Gulf War

JN100604 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Jul 87

[Text] Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, has affirmed that as a result of cooperation between theYAR and Saudi Arabia many achievements have been accomplished in various political, economic, and security fields. This has been done in accordance with the plans charted by the brothers President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and secretary general of the General People's congress, and King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques.

In an interview published today in the newspaper *26 September*,Prince Sultan affirmed that the meetings of the Yemeni-Saudi Coordination Council were successful. He said that during the 10th session of the Yemeni-Saudi Coordination Council many issues were resolved and agreement was reached on numerous projects.

Prince Sultan emphasized Saudi Arabia's constant concern for the security and protection of the Gulf. He expressed the hope that the efforts being made by the Security Council will bring about stability to the Gulf area. Prince Sultan noted that his country has sufficient power to defend itself.

Referring to the Iraq-Iran war, Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al'-Aziz said that Saudi Arabia is continuing to make efforts together with the brother leaders of Muslim and Arab states to end this conflict, which has continued for too long and whose threats have increased. He stressed his country's hope that the Iranian Government will respond favorably to the constant appeals and the intensive efforts being made to establish peace to safeguard the resources and destiny of the two Muslim countries.

Ethiopian Foreign Minister Ends Visit, Departs

JN091400 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Jul 87

[Text] Berhanu Bayeh, member of the Political Bureau of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia and foreign minister, left Sanaa this morning following a 4-day visit to our country during which he conveyed a message to Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, from Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam. He also held talks with Brother Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and member of the Standing Committee.

In a predeparture statement to SABA', the Ethiopian official described his visit as successful and as having had positive results. He indicated that he had held a detailed and lengthy dialogue with the foreign minister on bilateral relations and ways to promote and enhance them. He said that the two sides have paved the way for promoting and consolidating these relations, noting Ethiopia's efforts to improve relations with neighboring countries.

The Ethiopian official was seen off by Brother Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, a number of Foreign Ministry officials, and Tequame Atske, the Ethiopian charge d'affaires in Sanaa.

Communique Reviews Action on Various Warfronts

JN091714 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Jul 87

[Communique No 2,736 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 9 July 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces have pledged to God, to the people, and to their great leader to make the tyrannical Khomeyniite clique pay a high price for its aggression, to crush all arrogant adventures of this idiotic anti-Arab clique, to destroy its remnants, to continually push thousands of them to the crematorium of death, and to embody our firm and legitimate right to destroy vital Iranian economic installations and bases linked to the war effort, facilities which the regime of charlatans uses to achieve its aggressive objectives and prolong the war. The following is a roundup of our Armed Forces' activities for last night and today:

1. Coinciding with the victories of our brave men in the heroic I Army Corps sector, where the new Iranian aggression was repulsed and thousands of the scoundrel Khomeyniites were killed, and countinuing our gigantic Air Force's heroic activities against enemy remnants on the battlefields where our planes dominate the skies of the Arab Gulf and shower enemy installations and supply routes with bombs day and night, the planes of our heroic Air Force raided an oil tanker holding area east of Khark Island at 2357 [1957 GMT] yesterday. With planned leadership instructions and our hawks' celebrated courage, they dealt devastating blows to this area. Our valiant hawks also carried out 49 combat missions today against enemy forces in the operation sectors, inflicting on them further losses in personnel, equipment, and supplies. After carrying out all these missions, our hawks returned safely and triumphantly with their planes to the homeland protected by God. Blessed be our Air force — commanders, hawks, officers, and other ranks -- for these splendid achievements. March ahead to achieve further victories.

2. Our brave helicopter gunships today pounded enemy troop concentrations, positions, and weapons, inflicting on them heavy losses in 38 combat missions. They then returned safely to base protected by God.

3. Our valiant armed units in the I Army Corps northern sector continued to destroy the remnants of tyranny and aggression, to impose full supremacy over the Zionist aggressors in this sector, and to inflict daily losses on them. They achieved the following losses today: one tubular launcher destroyed; a tank damaged; two vehicles burned and destroyed; a TOW missile base, two ammunition dumps, two observation posts, and two infantry positions destroyed; and several enemy personnel killed.

4. Our brave formations in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah used various types of weapons to deal concentrated blows to enemy positions, weapons, assembly areas, and vehicles, inflicting on them further losses.

Elsewhere in the same sector, three scoundrels were killed, a shovel [preceding word in English] was damaged, and four light 40-mm launchers, two Kalashnikovs, and a 60-mm mortar left by the enemy in no-man's-land were captured.

5. Our units in the VI Army Corps sector east of Tigris killed or wounded several enemy personnel, burned a vehicle, destroyed a gun emplacement, and captured a small boat.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 9 July 1987

DPK Leaders Meet; Barzani To Head Military

NC090940 Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish 5 Jul 87 pp 3, 11

[Excerpt] The leaders of the separatist Democratic Party of Kurdistan [DPK] in northern Iraq have met in Reza'iyeh in Iran and decided that Mas'ud Barzani should manage the military affairs of the party, while his nephew Necir Barzani should be responsible for political affairs. Talabani's representatives attended the meeting held at a Barzani camp near Reza'iyeh, which is close to the Turkish border.

The participants at the meeting decided that Mas'ud Barzani, who is the "overall leader" in northern Iraq and who has significant influence in the region, should manage DPK's military affairs, and his nephew Necir Barzani, who is the son of Idris Barzani, who died some time ago, should be responsible for the political affairs of the party. Furthermore, they decided that the struggle waged against the Saddam regime in Iraq should be strengthened and expanded. In accordance with this decision, the Peshmerga forces will move to place the E-24 highway between Al-Sulaymaniyah and Dahuk, which is used as a transit route, under their control within a short period of time. [passage omitted]

YEDI'OT AHARONOT Previews Peres Trip to Geneva

TA091124 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 9 Jul 87 pp 1, 14

[Report by Edwin Eytan from Geneva and Roni Shaqed]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, leaves this morning on a 1-day visit to Geneva. Up to the time of writing this report, meetings were stillarranged for him with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar. Peres will mainly discuss matters pertaining to the international conference with the two.

A meeting is also planned for Peres with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, who will brief Peres on his talks with Vladimir Polyakov, head of the Near Eastern Countries Department in the Soviet Foreign Affairs Ministry.

Peres' planned meeting with Vladimir Polyakov has been canceled. Polyakov hastily left Geneva yesterday — as though to avoid a meeting with Israeli representatives. Soviet diplomats explained afterward: "It is too early to hold such a meeting. Israel knows our position. Such a meeting can only be held once some progress is made."

Israeli officials said no direct attempt had been made to organize a meeting with the Soviet representative. "The Soviets knew that Peres was coming and it all depended on whether they would express a desire to meet with him."

According to my information, the Israelis did not try — either directly or indirectly — to make contact with the Soviets; however, a "third party" did indeed attempt to arrange such a meeting. In contrast, there is absolutely no basis to the rumors about a possible "Chinese meeting." The PRC delegation to the UNCTAD conference (which is serving as the formal reason for Mubarak and Peres' trip to Geneva) is scheduled to arrive in Geneva on Sunday — long after Peres returns to Israel. [passage omitted]

Peres on Meeting With Mubarak

TA091708 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1629 GMT 9 Jul 87

[Interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, by Gid'on Kouts after his meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Geneva — live]

[Text] [Peres] The conversation was very frank and friendly. It lasted nearly 2 hours. We reflected on peace, analyzed what progress we have made since our meeting in Alexandria, what problems surfaced, and what can be done to handle them. These difficulties came as no surprise; we expected them to crop up, so neither of us was disappointed that they actually did come up. Nor are we discouraged, thinking that they cannot be overcome.

I invited the Egyptian foreign minister and asked the president to come and visit Israel, an invitation which he accepted. This will provide an opportunity to all the members of the Cabinet, including the prime minister, to hear about the Egyptian position firsthand.

President Mubarak issued statements that are definitely encouraging. There are no differences of opinion, and we agreed that Israel's vital interests will not be decided upon by the Soviets, the Americans, or anyone else, and that negotiations will not be conducted on our behalf but by ourselves. We agreed that we are both talking about direct negotiations with an international opening, which I believe will provide the legitimacy for the Arab side to come to conduct the negotiations.

[Kouts] What is the novelty in the talks, and what progress have you made so far? [words indistinct] Jordanian-Palestinian delegation?

[Peres] Yes, definitely.

[Kouts] What would you say is the item on which there was progress at this meeting?

[Peres] I do not wish to make excuses, but we explained our position on the PLO and why it is unacceptable under any circumstances. We explained the difficulties we see in the Soviet side's positions. We drew a distinction between differences of opinion with Israel and unfounded skepticism. We will take every measure in our power to strengthen the peace process, promote it, and create the necessary basic conditions and atmosphere for it.

Reviews Understanding With Egypt

TA100502 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 10 Jul 87

[Report from Geneva by Gid'on Kouts — recorded]

[Text] [Kouts] The issue of the Soviet Union's participation in an international peace conference was one of the most important topics discussed yesterday at the meeting between Husni Mubarak and Shim'on Peres in Geneva. The evening before that Mubarak heard a report from U.S. envoy Murphy on his meeting with the Soviet Union's Polyakov. Before his departure, Shim'on Peres met with Ambassador Pickering, and in Geneva his aides met with a U.S. delegation member. The impression is that the Soviets have moved from an intransigent stand to a flexible one on several issues. The Soviets are no longer insisting that the conference be able to impose anything, but they are interested in a dynamic conference. Mubarak promised to explain to the Soviets and the Chinese the importance of establishing diplomatic relations with Israel. Peres reviewed the extent of understanding between Egypt and Israel on the issue of peace:

[Peres] There is no point of dispute between us regarding the following issues: The target is direct negotiations, which have no substitute; any agreement must be the product of accord, not of imposition; the international conference is nothing but an opening for direct negotiations, it enables these negotiations but does not replace them. It was very interesting to hear Mubarak's attitude toward the Palestinian issue, and he certainly does agree that there is no room for a separate Palestinian delegation, but

there should be a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. He is definitely against a separate Palestinian state. I explained to him at considerable length why the PLO cannot be considered because of the terrorism issue, and he showed much understanding; although 'Arafat may be the most moderate of them, I told him that this depends on one's point of view. I suggested to Mubarak that Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid come to visit Israel. He will be able to conduct talks not only with me, but with the prime minister and other Cabinet members.

[Kouts] Was a date mentioned?

[Peres] I think President Mubarak would prefer to announce a date on his return to Egypt, but the reference is to the next few days or the next few weeks.

Mubarak Accepts 'London Document'

TA101243 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
10 Jul 87 pp A1, 2

[Report by Tamar Golan and Sari Robert in Geneva; 'Ofra Yeshu'a-Lyth, Shefi Gabay, and Refa'el Mann]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The Mubarak-Peres meeting yesterday was the first since the Jordanian-Israeli agreement on the so-called "London document." Reference is to a U.S. working paper that was presented to Israel and Jordan. According to foreign sources, the final agreement on the document was reached in a secret meeting in London 3 months ago between King Husayn and Shim'on Peres.

Although he had been familiar with the specifics before, President Mubarak officially embraced the "London document" only yesterday. Moreover, Peres said he had received the impression that President Mubarak not only favors a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation but also does not believe that there is room for the establishment of a Palestinian state.

In a briefing to Israeli correspondents, Peres nevertheless said that Mubarak still believes Yasir 'Arafat will ultimately accept the conditions posed to him: recognition of UN Resolutions 242 and 338 and giving up violence and terror. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Remarks on Talks

TA091925 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1820 GMT 9 Jul 87

[Report on interview with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak by Yo'av Tocker in Geneva at the end of the Egyptian president's meeting with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, on 9 July — report videorecorded in English with superimposed Hebrew translation; passages within slantlines indicate portions of Mubarak's remarks audible in English]

[Text] Against the background of a substantial degree of nervousness — in terms of security, press coverage, and political matters — President Mubarak and Mr Peres held a private conversation lasting nearly 2 hours this evening. Judging by statements from both of them, this was an opportunity for them to carry out a comprehensive, though not very easy, review of all the hard problems that have accumulated over the last few months in thecontacts being made toward the possible convocation of an international conference.

In an interview President Mubarak — all smiles and very courteous — granted Israel Television immediately after the meeting, the president made no effort to conceal the existence of these difficulties, or so many difficulties as he phrased it. He noted, however, that efforts to overcome them are continuing.

I asked him: What seems to be the greatest difficulty right now? And his answer was /I can't tell you. There are difficulties, so many difficulties./ At any rate, we are continuing our efforts and I have been coordinating the contacts with my friend King Husayn and with the Palestinians. I am also /making a good dialogue with the Israeli Government and I did it now with Deputy Prime Minister Shim'on Peres concerning the same issue./ We have a problem with Palestinian representation and with the conference's terms of reference, Mubarak said.

Question: Are you concerned about the domestic problems in Israel over this issue?

Answer: I am not one to interfere in Israel's internal affairs. Just as Israel has domestic problems, so have we.

Peres Returns From Geneva

TA101716 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 10 Jul 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has arrived back in Israel after talks on Middle East peace with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Geneva. Peres declined to speak to reporters at Ben-Gurion Airport.

During his 24-hour trip to Geneva, Peres had what a spokesman said were encouraging talks with Mubarak and UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar. Peres and Mubarak agreed that Palestinian representation at an international peace conference should be in the form of a joint delegation with Jordan, Foreign Ministry officials said. They had also decided that Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid would visit Israel within the next 2 weeks.

Tamir To Go to Cairo to Prepare 'Abd al-Majid Visit

TA100815 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0800 GMT 10 Jul 87

[Text] On Sunday, Foreign Ministry Director General Avraham Tamir is to go to Cairo to prepare for Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid's visit to Israel. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that this is one of the conclusions of Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' talk with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak yesterday in Geneva. 'Abd al-Majid is to come to Israel within the next few weeks.

International Conference Losing Public Support

TA101257 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 10 Jul 87 p A2

[Text] A public opinion poll conducted by Modi'in Ezrahi for *Ma'ariv shows a decrease in public support for holding an* international conference to promote peace.

At the beginning of June, Modi'in Ezrahi's research institute under the direction of Dr Mikha Hop polled public opinion about the possibility of holding an international conference for the promotion of peace and the inclusion of the Soviet Union in such a conference.

Two questions were asked:

1. Should Israel be in favor of convening an international conference for the promotion of peace?

2. Do you think that the inclusion of the Soviet Union in such a conference could promote the chances of peace in the Middle East?

The answers to the first question were compared to the findings of a poll posing the same question Modi'in Ezrahi conducted in May 1987. Here are the results, quoted in percentage points:

	May 87	June 87
Support a conference, even with the participation of the PLO	16.6	11.5
Support a conference with Palestinians who are not PLO members	30.0	28.6
Support a conference only without Palestinian representation	19.3	24.2
Opposed to holding a conference	28.7	33.3
Did not reply	5.4	2.3

Although the findings of the two polls do not differ a great deal, they consistently denote a decrease in support for holding an international conference and an increase in the number of those who are partially or absolutely opposed to it.

As for the answers to the second question, about the inclusion of the Soviet Union in the conference, it turns out that the different opinions denote a certain measure of criticism on the part of the public: 12 percent said the inclusion of the Soviet Union is a must, 36 percent said its inclusion may help promote peace, 22.7 percent believe the inclusion of the Soviet Union will not contribute to promoting peace, 21.2 percent believe its inclusion will undermine the promotion of peace in the region. Only 8 percent did not reply to the question at all.

Shamir's Office Denies U.S. Paper Report on Nir

TA091622 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 9 Jul 87

[Text] The Prime Minister's Office has denied a *Washington Post* report alleging that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has divested antiterrorism adviser 'Amiram Nir of all his power against the background of the Iranian arms affair. The denial was issued by Avi Pazner, Mr Shamir's media affairs adviser.

RSA Embassy Reacts to Recommended Sanctions

TA101232 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 10 Jul

[Text] The South African Embassy in Tel Aviv has reacted to the recommendations prepared by the interministerial committee in Israel concerning the reduction of ties with South Africa and the prohibition of contacts with various elements there with the exception of blacks and Jews. The embassy says this represents discrimination between various sectors of the South African population and might be interpreted by Israeli circles as an act of provocation.

Our correspondent Gidpon Remez notes, however, that the embassy denies it threatened that if the recommendations are adopted, this would arouse anti-Semitic reactions in South Africa.

Shahal Demands Cabinet Discuss Shamir Vote

TA091329 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 9 Jul 87

[Text] Energy Minister Moshe Shahal demands that in its next session the Cabinet discuss the prime minister's vote in favor of the bill proposing amnesty for the Jewish underground members. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Minister Shahal pointed out that when the bill was first presented to the Cabinet, three ministers including himself expressed their opposition to it. Moshe Shahal maintains that in view of the fact that no debate was held on the objection to the bill, according to the government procedural code, it becomes the Cabinet's stand — again, in accordance with the government procedural code. Minister Shahal therefore believes Mr Shamir's position can only be seen as violating the procedural code and the law.

SHAS To Remain in Government Until New Vote

TA091155 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 9 Jul 87 pp A1, 2

[Report by Menahem Rahat, Yosef Tzuri'el, Me'ir Hare'uveni, and Refael Mann]

[Excerpts] SHAS [Torah Observing Sepharadim] has decided to give the Likud "one last chance," following its disappointment over the Likud's inability to gain a majority in support of the Religious Conversion Law. The faction last night preferred to choose the easiest of the three possible reactions available and to remain, despite everything, in the government.

SHAS' threat to leave the government and join the supporters of early elections turned out to be — at least at this stage — an empty one. Minister Yitzhaq Peretz even found a logical reason for this position: "If we support early elections, we will be awarding a prize to the Alignment, which is demanding early elections —

and the sinner should not profit from his sins," to quote a biblical expression. [passage omitted]

The SHAS Knesset faction met last night to discuss the results of the vote and to decide what steps to take in the near future. Three possible paths were presented to the faction: joining the camp that demands early elections; joining the vote of no-confidence in the government to bring it down and work for a narrow-based government; or demanding the Likud's support next week for the Religious Conversion Law, which will be brought before the Knesset in a new form and called the Rabbinical Courts Adjudication Law.

This law, presented by Knesset Member [MK] Refa'el Pinhasi (SHAS) and MK Abuhatzera, wants conversions performed abroad to be declared invalid in Israel until they are ratified by the Rabbinical Courts here. The Religious Conversion Law called for the Chief Rabbinate's approval of overseas converts, while the Rabbinical Courts Adjudication Law gives the Rabbinical Courts the power to approve or disapprove.

SHAS decided to choose the third option and demand a discussion on the Rabbinical Courts Adjudication Law as early as next week. "If this time the Likud again does not succeed in getting the law passed, we will have to consider leaving the government," SHAS informed the Likud last night. [passage omitted]

Morning Press on Religious Bloc's Knesset Defeat

TA091116 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0330 GMT 9 Jul 87

[Review of the morning press editorials]

[Excerpt] *Ha'aretz* says a move such as Yitzhaq Shamir's vote in favor of a private member's bill, which the justice minister, in the name of the government, asked be rejected, is an unsightly blemish, although it should not be taken lightly even as such. However, a graver view should be taken of the prime minister's demonstration of sympathy for the Jewish terrorists, the blow he dealt the president, and his contempt for the courts that sent the terrorists to jail for their grave crimes. If Yitzhaq Shamir is not ashamed of his vote, the citizens of Israel should be ashamed, as the paper phrases it, of its prime minister. For the moment we can breathe easily, knowing that one of the religious attacks has been repelled, but other attacks are to be expected. The danger threatening Israel's image as a secular state, for which all the currents that make up the Jewish people can feel sympathy and solidarity, has not receded.

The Jerusalem Post writes that it is a fact that this latest challenge to the unity of the Jewish people, with Israel at its center, has been beaten back. The Conservative and Reform versions of Judaism were not proclaimed heresies by Israel's parliament, and this, again, is reason for cheering. The attack is not over, and it may be necessary to repel another one.

Hamodi'a says the religious factions must reexamine their deployment on the issue of religious legislation. Is the time for religious legislation long past? Would it be better for the religious factions to devote more time to fortifying themselves, thus enabling them to increase their activities, which can bring people closer to the Torah, and to fight the turbid waves from above and below, in the anticipation of a better, more promising future? More and more profound thought should be devoted to questions, along with the question of what path should be taken and what, the paper adds, should be done under conditions in which there is an antireligious majority in the Knesset, as demonstrated in yesterday's vote.

'Al Hamishmar writes that when a prime minister votes against his government and in favor of undermining the rule of law, yet continues to preside in office as though nothing had happened, this is proof that the entire ruling establishment has, as the paper phrases it, lost its mind and is unworthy of its citizens' trust.

Yated Ne'eman says the stubborn fight waged by antireligious circles against legislation on the matter of conversion again proves that two peoples with no common language are evolving here.

Davar writes that yesterday's triple defeat of the Likud-religious block in the Knesset is good news for the State of Israel and for the people of Israel, of which only a few actually live in this country. [passage omitted]

Gush Emunim: 'Settlement or Early Elections'

TA100642 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0645 GMT 10 Jul 87

[Text] We have hardly recovered from the fight over religious legislation and we are already facing something new: settlement in Judaea and Samaria — and soon. Gush Emunim is calling for the disbandment of the government and early elections if the settlement momentum is not resumed. This was decided during the night by the expanded Gush Emunim Secretariat, which also decided to pressure the National Religious Party [NRP] and Likud members to work for this. Our correspondent Avshalom Ginosar reports:

During the night Gush Emunim aligned itself with the Tehiya. However, its members stress that they intend to take action on the political plane so that their firm stand will be shared by not only the Tehiya, but by members of the Likud and the NRP. The position is unambiguous: the establishment of new settlements, the strengthening of existing settlements, the establishment of infrastructures such as roads and water systems, and all of this within the shortest possible time; if not: the disbandment of the government and elections. The timetable they are discussing is only a few weeks. Argument is that the benefits of the national unity government no longer outweigh the disadvantages of the freeze on settlement. Thus the Gush Emunim members have accepted the position of Tehiya Chairman Yuval Ne'eman, who appeared before them last night.

People in Gush Emunim are telling us that the freeze on settlement is a symptom of a more profound freeze, and even a retreat from what the Gush leaders call national resistance. As proof, they give the example of Shim'on Peres' activities to promote the international conference, the security situation in the territories, and the recent events in Beit Jann.

Gush Emunim points to a document it submitted to the prime minister over a week ago, in conjunction with the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. The document deals with a detailed plan for increasing the number of Jews in Judaea and Samaria. Its main points are an additional six settlements and massive population of the existing ones. The goal is to add an additional 20,000 Jews to settlement in the territories within the shortest possible time. By the way, the prime minister has not yet responded to the document submitted to him.

The course of action for the next few weeks which the Gush Emunim Secretariat adopted during the night consists of energetic lobbying among Likud and NRP ministers and Knesset members to convince them to align themselves with the Tehiya position, as well as holding public rallies throughout Israel to gain support for the position of: settlement or early elections.

Chance for Narrow-Based Government Seen Increasing

TA101032 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 10 Jul 87 pp 1, 16

[Analysis by Menahem Shalev: "Early Elections Unlikely"]

[Text] For the past few months, politicians have been debating the pros and cons of early elections. But, increasingly, what they have been thinking about — with hope or with dread — is a narrow-based coalition.

Many sources familiar with Prime Minister Shamir's thinking are now convinced that if push comes to shove, he would prefer to set up a government supported by 61 MK's [Knesset members] rather than go to the polls.

Shamir prefers to remain at the helm of the national unity government, at least to maintain economic stability. But the frustration of Shim'on Peres's efforts for an international Mideast peace conference, which Shamir believes is withering but might be revived by early elections, remains the prime minister's paramount concern. Tehiya and SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], breathing down the Likud's neck and threatening to join Labour's drive for early elections, may force the prime minister's hand.

Labour leaders have repeatedly flashed the spectre of an "extremist religious-ultra nationalist" Likud-led government in order to offset their colleagues' demands for a unilateral departure from the coalition. However, Labour is slowly — but consistently — slipping in the polls, and party discontent is growing.

If the hoped-for majority favouring early elections is not achieved before the Knesset summer recess, Labour's leaders will be hard-put to persuade the party to remain in the government.

The Likud can now realistically count on the support of 61 MK's, excluding Meir Kahane, for a narrow coalition. These include their own 41, Tehiya's five, the National Religious Party's [NRP] five, SHAS's four, Agudat Yisra'el's two and MK's Aharon Abu-Hatzera, Avraham Verdiger, Yiga'el Hurvitz and Shinuy's Zaydan 'Atshah.

SHAS's reaction to the defeat of the "Who is a Jew" bills was not what Labour had hoped for. In a meeting with Shamir yesterday, party leader Rabbi Yitzhaq Peretz praised the Likud's "failed but strenuous efforts" to raise a majority for "Who is a Jew" and again blasted Labour's "anti-religiousness." Peretz, who has invoked the Talmudic adage "sinner must not be rewarded" in order to distance himself from Labour's election drive, might be able to persuade the Torah Council of Sages that cabinet portfolios and the benefits accorded narrow-coalition partners are preferable to the potential electoral gains.

— Tehiya has said almost openly that it would join a narrow coalition, since such a step would ensure the achievement of the two goals of its current campaign against the Likud: a massive build-up of West Bank settlements, and the total collapse of international conference efforts. The only hold-out might be MK Refa'el Eytan. But at least one Likud minister said this week, only half-jokingly, that because of the Likud's internal problems with the defence portfolio, Eytan might be made an offer he cannot refuse.

— The NRP is on record as opposing a narrow coalition, but the winds in the party are blowing in a different direction. The right wing of the party and Matzad, on the ascendant, support such an option, and the party does not consider itself ready for elections in any case.

— Agudat Yisra'el is suffering from deep internal strife and is in no condition to go to the polls.

— MK's Abu-Hatzeira and Hurvitz have thrown in their lot with the Likud, for better or for worse. Hurvitz might oppose a move for a narrow government, but not to the point of political extinction.

— MK 'Atshah was reportedly on the verge of concluding an agreement with the Likud yesterday.

Shamir undoubtedly prefers that Labour precipitate the move for a narrow-based government by departing from the coalition. He could then avoid resignation, invite Tehiya, Verdiger and 'Atshah to join a narrow-based government and blame Labour for dismantling the still-popular national unity government. If, however, Labour does not oblige, and a majority for early elections is forecast, Shamir could also go to the president and resign, bringing down the government. The president, under current conditions, would have to bestow the mandate of forming a new government on the Likud leader.

Rabin, Nisim Tell IAI Lavi Should Be Stopped

TA091529 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 9 Jul 87

[Text] The defense and finance ministers explained in no uncertain terms to members of the Israel Aircraft Industries' [IAI] board of directors that the Lavi project should be stopped. In a meeting with IAI heads, the defense minister said it would be

preferable to halt the project now rather than in a few years. Nonetheless, he pointed out that if a compromise is found, he would be prepared to discuss it in the Cabinet.

The finance minister told the participants of the meeting that although the IAI's problems cannot be ignored, if the overall economic and security considerations are taken into account, the balance is not in favor of the Lavi. He noted that the IAI did not present any realistic alternative to the aircraft and that it likewise failed to present a compromise plan or a program for outlay cuts.

Speaking to our economic affairs correspondent Gadi Sukenik, Minister Nisim said the decision on the matter is expected in less than 2 weeks and he would present his views to the prime minister even before then.

East Jerusalem Electric Workers Protest Decision

TA091943 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 9 Jul 87

[Excerpt] The employees of the [East] Jerusalem Electric Company today staged a 1-hour sit-down strike to protest the Cabinet's intention of revoking the company's franchise on the supply of electricity to Jewish consumers. The decision was made yesterday by the Inner Cabinet, but it still requires endorsement by the full Cabinet plenum and the appropriate legislation. [passage omitted]

Agreement Reached on Flights to Sinai Airfield

TA101521 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Jul 87 p A7

[Report by aviation affairs correspondent Zohar Blumenkrantz]

[Excerpt] Egypt and Israel have reached an agreement, which was not publicized as being part of the aviation arrangement signed between them, on landing rights and a change in the process of obtaining permits to land at St Catherine airfield in the Sinai.

Representatives of the Egyptian Civil Aviation Authority have concluded their visit to Israel and returned home on an El Al flight.

According to the agreement reached in the talks, Egypt will permit Israel to expand air traffic to St Catherine's by shortening the time and significantly changing the procedure of submitting requests for permits to conduct charter flights for private purposes. This refers to the issuance of permits to conduct private flights in light planes to the site. Up until now, applications had to be submitted at least 10 days in advance, via the appropriate diplomatic channels, to receive permission to conduct a flight of this kind.

According to the agreement reached, the time needed to obtain a landing permit will be shortened to only 3 days, and the application will be made directly through the civil aviation authorities of the two countries. This will enable Israel to operate "airbuses" to St Catherine's. [passage omitted]

Ban on Egyptian Seamen Coming Ashore Rescinded

TA100957 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 10 Jul 87

[Text] With Foreign Ministry intervention, the Interior Ministry directive banning Egyptian seamen from coming ashore at Israeli ports has been rescinded. The Jerusalem Foreign Ministry spokesman has reported that from now on all Egyptian seamen arriving at Israeli ports on board foreign ships can come ashore like any tourist and can move through Israel without restrictions.

Alignment's Edri in Morocco for Hassan's Birthday

TA091036 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 9 Jul 87

[Text] Alignment Knesset Faction Chairman Rafi Edri is in Morocco. This has been learned by our correspondent Razi Barqay. He was invited to attend the festivities marking King Hassan's birthday, and it is not yet clear whether he will hold political meetings there. Rafi Edri's departure for Morocco was delayed yesterday because of the Knesset votes.

Druze Decide to Dismantle Illegal Encampment

TA101118 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 10 Jul 87

[Excerpt] Beit Jann residents have decided to dismantle the illegal encampment they erected in the Meron nature reserve earlier this week. The head of the local council, Shafiq al-Asad, said this is the result of efforts to settle the dispute by Foreign Minister Peres and the Druze leaders. According to the proposal, Peres will present the Knesset with legislation to return the disputed areas to the Druze. The move has been sharply criticized by top officials of the Nature Reserve Authority. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Influence Growing in South Lebanon

TA091809 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 9 Jul 87

[Text] Hizballah is getting a firmer foothold in southern Lebanon. With the help of large sums of money put at its disposal by Iran, Hizballah clergymen have been operating both in Shi'ite villages and in the Palestinian refugee camps. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports from the north:

[Begin recording] The ayatollahs have one clearly defined goal: To wave the Iranian flag along Israel's northern border. Shaykh (Hamid Sadiqi) is in charge of Hizballah's southern office, located in Tyre, and in the Shi'ite village south of the Al-Litani River. His subordinates the clergymen are conducting crash courses for born-again Muslims. The graduates of these intensive

courses then leave for Ba'labakk, in the Al-Biqa' region, to complete their education through gunfire classes and courses on making firebombs.

Hundreds of Shi'ite youths have recently gone through this curriculum, to the dismay of Amal. Approximately 1 month ago, Shaykh (Sadiqi) got a message that conveyed this chagrin: His car blew up. They shaykh was unharmed, but his driver was killed.

Hizballah emissaries have purchased dozens of houses in Shi'ite villages. In Mashgharah they bought a large leather factory and have thus becoma a major regional employer.

The Iranian envoys are also engaged in energetic activity among the Palestinans in the refugee camps. In Burg al-Shamali, they financed the building of a mosque, work on which was completed only recently.

A broadcasting station using an FM frequency was operated in the Hizballah headquarters in Tyre, but Amal men broke into the station, stopped the broadcasting, and confiscated the transmitters. [end recordig]

Junblatt 'Reiterates' Glass Not U.S. Spy
NC100557 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0430 GMT 10 Jul 87

[Text] In a radio interview, PSP leader Walid Junblatt has dealt with the various developments in Lebanon. He reiterated his views regarding the crime of Prime Minister Rashid Karami's assassination, the Maronite political plans in Lebanon, and the situation in the nationalist arena. He accused Amin al-Jumayyil of being behind Karami's assassination and claimed that the Maronite political leaders, who are linked to Israel and the United States, are proceeding with their plans to establish a Christian petty state tied to Israel and the West.

Junblatt affirmed that the unification and liberation front has been established and will be announced next week. However, he added, this is not what matters. Of greater importance, he asserted, is how to unify all Christian and Muslim national forces, loyal to Lebanon and to Arabism, to confront the partition plan which has assumed serious dimensions.

Referring to U.S. journalist Charles Glass and the accusation leveled against him of being an agent of U.S. intelligence, Junblatt said: I do not believe Glass is a U.S. Spy. He accompanied me during the mountain war, the Beirut uprising, and other events. Junblatt expressed the hope that Glass will be released through political and diplomatic means. He noted that Syria is interested in the fate of all foreign hostages in Lebanon.

Junblatt Reportedly Calls for 'Conflagration'
NC091758 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 9 Jul 87

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon has obtained from reliable sources a summary of what went on at the expanded Islamic meeting held in Damascus yesterday, at which Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad was present.

From this information, it is clear that two groups emerged during the meeting. The first was represented by Minister Walid Junblatt and Shaykh Muhammad Abu Shaqrah [Druze spiritual leader]. This group advocated a conflagration and claimed that the problem should be settled by military means, on the grounds that any attempt to deal with it through dialogue and reconciliation will be fruitless, particularly under the present regime. According to Junblatt, military operations must be undertaken in order to bring about a decisive victory for one party over another. There can then be reconciliation without obstacles and reforms without opposition.

Acting Prime Minsiter Salim al-Huss, however, replied in detail and at length to this call for conflagration. He said that it would be better to proceed through consultations and dialogue, unless the intention is to liquidate what is left of the Lebanese people and Lebanon's component parts as a homeland, state, and nation. Al-Huss added that conflagrations are not in the interest of Muslims, nor are they are in the interest of Syria and the Arabs.

Speaker Husayn al-Husayni and the other spiritual and political leaders who attended the meeting came out in support of Acting Prime Minister al-Huss. They stressed that openness and dialogue between Christians and Muslims offer a better way to salvation, and pointed out that there have been many conflagrations during the 12-year war, none of which has produced any decisive result or victory.

The Voice of Lebanon has also learned that Minister Nabih Birri approved the plan for moderation and dialogue. President al-Asad listened attentively to Acting Prime Minister al-Huss and supported him on some of his points.

Sources close to the conferees stated that the reports published in some of today's newspapers on the nature of the meeting were not true or accurate. They said that the conferees arrived at no decision or plan of action on the formation of a broadly-based front or on current activities.

Syrians, Hizballah Clash Near Ba'labakk
NC091711 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 9 Jul 87

[Text] According to information received by the Voice of Lebanon from Al-Biqa', Syrian forces deployed a number of missile launchers 2 days ago on Tallat Batha in the Sir'in ridges in northern Al-Biqa'. The hill overlooks Ba'labakk. That same night, Hizballah gunmen advanced toward the hill, and limited clashes ensued between these gunmen and the Syrian forces. Following consultations between them, the two sides withdrew from the hill the next morning. As a result of the agreement reached, neither side now occupies the hill.

Resistance Members Shell Zar'it Settlement 9 Jul
NC100702 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0500 GMT 10 Jul 87

[Text] At 0200 yesterday, the resistance revolutionaries fired two Katyusha rockets the Zionist settlement of Zar'it inside the occupied territories.

Explosive Charge Found Near Karami's Tomb
NC100529 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 10 Jul 87

[Text] According to a security report from Tripoli, the security services in the city discovered an explosive charge near the tomb of Prime Minister Rashid Karami last night. The area was cordoned off and the explosive charge was removed to another place where it was detonated.

Politburo Discusses October Revolution, Social Ills

LD092030 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 9 Jul 87

[Excerpts] A session of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo has been held to discuss preparations for the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution [GOSR] in the DRA. [passage omitted]

The Politburo considers this GOSR anniversary to be a great festival of the Soviet people, of people in all socialist countries, and of all progressive mankind. In order to celebrate the 70th anniversary of GOSR in a worthy manner, the Politburo has issued a resolution on the matter.

The Politburo also assessed the joint resolution by the Politburo and the Council of Ministers on organizing the economic, scientific, technical, and cultural cooperation between the provinces of the Soviet Union and the provinces of the DRA. Having expressed satisfaction with the gains made in this work, it gave specific tasks to the relevant bodies in this connection.

In order to explain the principles of the sacred religion of Islam and the participation of religious leaders and theologians in implementing the national reconciliation policy, ending bloodshed, and restoring peace in the country, the PDPA Central Committee Politburo approved the proposal of the High Council for Ulema and religious leaders to establish a weekly journal, *Ershad-e Islam* [Guidance of Islam], as the publication organ of that Council. [passage omitted]

Addiction to alcohol and drugs, bribery, abuse of public property, and other negative phenomena, which are against Islamic principles [words indistinct] were discussed by the Politburo. As addiction to alcohol and other drugs disturbs society and family life and does not have a [words indistinct] effect on healthy persons in society, and as bribery and the abuse of public property disrupt the social order and are incompatible with the spirit of national reconciliation, the PDPA Central Committee Politburo commissioned party committees and social organizations and officials of the ministries, departments, and political bodies of the Armed Forces to promote a decisive campaign against alcohol and drug addiction, bribery, and other negative phenomena, and to intensify inquiries into those who disregard social norms. [passage omitted]

A number of domestic and international issues also were discussed by the Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee.

IRNA: Mujahidin Shoot Down Soviet Bomber

LD091923 Tehran IRNA in English 1742 GMT 9 Jul 87

[Text] Islamabad, July 9, IRNA — Afghan Muslim revolutionaries shot down a Soviet bomber (Sukhoi-22) and captured 60 Soviet-Afghan joint forces in a series of operations in Parwan Province on June 23.

The Afghan Mujahidin also attacked positions of the joint forces in Parwan Province on July 3 and 4, killing eight communist forces and capturing three others. Two Muslim soldiers of the Afghan Army joined the Mujahidin.

Meanwhile, Afghan Mujahidin took 60 state forces prisoner in Dir-e Kali [name as received] region on June 29.

Warplanes of the Soviet-Afghan joint forces, in retaliation, bombed residential quarters and Mujahidin positions in the said region wounding five civilians including two women. Some houses were also destroyed.

Meanwhile, leader of Afghanistan's Hezb-e Eslami (Islamic Party) Gulbuddin Hikmatyar Wednesday suggested that a neutral, provisional government be formed to supervise the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Speaking in a meeting with a French parliamentary delegation in Pakistan, Hikmatyar said the Soviet Union should start evacuating its forces from Bagram and Shindand regions.

The Afghan Mujahidin will continue to bear arms till the Soviet forces completely withdraw from their country, Hikmatyar said warning "if the Soviet Union discontinues the evacuation, the Mujahidin will resume their jihad."

Mujahidin Kill 18, Damage Oil Tankers in Parvan

BK100906 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 10 Jul 87

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say 12 persons were killed and several others injured in severe clashes between two groups of Kabul forces in Qandahar.

Another report says that the Mujahidin attacked two military convoys in the Salang area of Parvan Province recently, killing 18 Soviet-Kabul soldiers and damaging several oil tankers.

Former Punjab Minister Killed by Terrorists 10 Jul
BK100957 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 10 Jul 87

[Excerpts] Seven states and two union territories are to evolve a joint action plan to combat terrorism. UNI, quoting official sources, says a high-level meeting of senior officers of these states is to be held soon in Delhi to discuss the coordinated action. Chief secretaries and police chiefs of Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and the union territories of Delhi and Chandigarh will attend the meeting. This is in the wake of a killing of bus passengers in Punjab and Haryana early this week. The plan, among other things, will envisage collecting intelligence, speedy and timely dissemination of information, strengthening inter-state border checkposts, proper security in the interstate buses, and mutual deployment of police to meet any eventuality. [passage omitted]

A bundh [strike] is being observed in more cities and towns today. Taxis and city buses went off the road as the Bombay bundh began last night in protest against the killings in Punjab and Haryana. Essential services are being maintained and suburban train services are operating. A 12-hour bundh will be oserved in Calcutta tomorrow. Essential services are exempted. As a mark of protest lawyers of the Calcuta High Court will not attend courts today.

The state assemblies of Manipur and Jammu and Kashmir have condemned the killings. They also expressed sympathies to the families of those killed.

The Uttar Pradesh chief minister, Mr Vir Bahadur Singh, had discussions with opposition leaders last evening on the situation in the state. It was decided to constitute all party committees in the districts to promote communal harmony.

Agencies say that 400 of the 700 Hem Kund-bound Punjab pilgrims were sent back under police escort from Rishikesh.

In Delhi, the situation is normal and the curfew has been lifted from the Paten Nagar area where it was imposed yesterday following some incidents. Day curfew has been withdrawn from the Walled City areas except Houz Kazi and Kamla Market. In these two areas 1 hour relaxation was given from 0600 to 0700 this morning.

In Punjab, terrorists shot dead six passengers, including a Congress-I leader and former minister, Mr Satnam Singh Bajwa, at a village in Amritsar District early this morning.

Those killed were his gunman, driver, and three friends — one of them a sarpanch [chief] of the village (Venigil). The victims were sleeping when attacked.

General Strike Protesting Killings Paralyzes Bombay
BK100437 Hong Kong AFP in English
0432 GMT 10 Jul 87

[Text] New Delhi, July 10 (AFP) — A general strike to protest the slaughter of 72 Hindus by Sikh militants virtually paralysed Bombay, India's financial capital, Friday, news reports said.

Scattered violence broke out during the one-day strike when opposition party activists stoned five taxis and at least 12 buses which ignore calls not to ply Friday, the *Press Trust of India* (PTI) reported. But most taxis and scooter-taxis went off the roads in the port city of 8.2 million, forcing people travelling by suburban trains to trek long distances on foot. But a skeleton bus service was being run, PTI said.

Hundreds of police and paramilitary personnel were deployed in Bombay and no major incident of violence had been reported.

Friday's strike was called by the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which Thursday organised a successful shut-down here, the pro-Hindu Shiv Sena and the Republic Party of India. It was backed by the Janata (People's) Party. The strike leaders had called for the closure of all shops and businesses.

Meanwhile, the Indian capital was reported calm Friday, a day after Hindus went on a rampage, attacking Sikh homes and property Thursday.

An indefinite curfew was clamped in a west Delhi quarter after mobs ransacked five houses, attacked two Sikh shrines and torched some vehicles and shops.

Similar strikes have also been organised in several Indian towns and cities to protest the killing of 72 Hindus Monday and Tuesday by Sikh separatists. Eight Sikhs were killed in a violent Hindu backlash in northern India following the slaughter.

Soviet Plane's Passengers Returned to USSR Embassy
LD101518 Tehran IRNA in English 1510 GMT 10 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, July 10, IRNA — All passengers of a Soviet plane, which mistakenly landed at Zabol Airport, Baluchestan va Sistan Province, Tuesday, were handed over to the Soviet Embassy here Friday afternoon following an official apology from the Soviet Government to Iran.

The handing over of the plane's passengers to the Soviet Embassy here came after Iran's probe into the incident and the cooperation of the Soviet Government with Iranian officials to settle the matter.

The Soviet plane mistakenly landed at Zabol airport on Tuesday but was later prevented from taking off.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Comments on Soviet Plane, Gulf
NC100627 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 10 Jul 87

[Text] The Supreme Defense Council convened last night and disussed the latest developments on the fronts and in the region. At the conclusion of this meeting, Supreme Defense Council spokesman Hashemi-Rafsanjani answered questions put to him by our correspondent on regional and international issues. We invite you to listen to this interview.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Supreme Defense Council convened tonight. Please tell us about the topics covered at the meeting and any decisions made in connection with the war and the latest developments on the fronts.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. The commanders of the [Islamic Revolution Guards] Corps submitted a very interesting and good report on the "Nasr-4" and "Nasr-5" operations, detailing our superiority on the battlefields. They submitted a report on our defense situation in the Persian Gulf and on the programs of the navies of the Armed Forces, the Corps, and their support forces. The navies submitted a plan for the south and the Persian Gulf, which the Council studied to a certain extent. The major part of the discussions dealt with programs that should be implemented in the Persian Gulf in order to confront foreign interference and, possibly, regional forces in neighboring countries that may cooperate with them in one way or another. We reached good decisions on this.

[Correspondent] It was reported in the news that a military aircraft with 10-15 passengers landed at Zabol Airport on Tuesday. What are the latest reports regarding the nationality of these persons and the aircraft, and the reason the plane landed at that airport?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Everything has been clarified for us. The aircraft, which is Russian, lost its bearings and landed in Zabol. So far, we have not determined if this act was ill-intended. Of course, it was a violation of our airspace and an entry into our territory which was made without our permission. Although the passengers were armed and the plane belongs to the Soviet Air Force, it is not a combat aircraft. We informed and protested to the Russians over this incident. They apologized to us officially and claimed it was a mistake. We have accepted this. Competent officials on both sides are now busy studying the details and technical aspects of the incident in order to reach a final solution. In our opinion, this was not a self-seeking act against us; it is highly possible that a mistake was made. Naturally, their apology solves the issue for us to a large extent. We believe this issue will be solved within the next few days.

[Correspondent] Foreign news agencies have reported that a U.S. ship flying the Liberian flag was attacked in the Persian Gulf. Is this report true and could you give us more details?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I heard this report from the news agencies and saw it on the telexes. Apparently, this is what happened. Our observers in the Persian Gulf heard that a ship was hit and was requesting help. The ship appeared to be engulfed in flames. The news agencies have claimed this ship belongs to the United States. I do not know for certain if this is true or not. It also may be true that it was flying a Liberian flag. It may be so. It is not clear who hit the ship. Of course, it may have been hit by unidentified elements that sometimes create problems in the Persian Gulf. The Iraqis have claimed that they hit a ship. This incident also may have taken place within the framework of the retaliation policy program.

So far, we have not assumed responsibility for initiating any attack on any ship. We have stated in general that a ship belonging to one of Iraq's mentors will be hit in retaliation for any attack on our ships. The cases reported so far may not have had anything to do with us — others may have attacked and we may have been blamed. However, we do not mind that these acts have been attributed to us. At any rate, retaliation takes place. It does not make any difference to us if the ship belongs to the United States, to the Soviet Union, or to other countries. In any case, the policy of retaliation will certainly continue in the future on the basis of the same (?principle of b'lind shot) that has been stated. With regard to this specific incident, we should wait a little for things to be clarified.

[Correspondent] If ships are not attacked in the Persian Gulf and the U.S. Congress gives its approval for a number of Kuwaiti ships to fly the U.S. flag, what will the Islamic Republic's policy be on this and the movement of Kuwaiti ships?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Naturally, in general we oppose a policy whereby a regional country places itself under the U.S. flag. But this opposition is purely theoretical and political. If Iraq does not commit mischief and does not attack our ships, then we in turn also will not attack any ship, regardless of whether it is flying the U.S. flag or any other flag. Of course, we consider this an ugly act and we state our opposition and view. We state our opposition to this in our propaganda. We condemn a country that carries the U.S. flag. We condemn a country that invites foreign countries to this area. However, there is no need for intervention. We do not have the right to intervene in the affairs of others and to prevent their actions. They can do as they like, but they will be committing a mistake.

[Correspondent] We have witnessed crises and problems in the Islamic Republic's diplomatic relations with France and Britain in recent weeks. What do think of these developments?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We are not averse to such crises in some instances. Our consistent policy since the revolution began has always been to lessen the presence — as much as possible — of colonialist countries that have always pursued spying and colonialist objectives and the objective of sowing their seeds for the future. However, within the framework of international law, we do not intend to sever our relations with these countries, unless they decide to take the first step. As for the recent two cases, they took the first step — both the Russians [he corrects himself], both the British and the French. They started this adventurism. We have seen those two countries violate international law on so many occasions that we feel free to retaliate whenever we want.

The officials of Western states in Third World countries, and especially in our country, do not pursue healthy objectives, only evil ones. However, these officials keep up appearances. They have connections with espionage, with smuggling, and with counterrevolution. These things are not hidden from our eyes. However, we do not want things to be sensationalized, but if they cause things tobe sensationalized, then naturally we are prepared. We are prepared now, too, and we are not worried that the situation may develop to our detriment. We do not believe it is to our detriment to reduce our relations with countries with an arrogant nature.

[Correspondent] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, we have heard in the news that the U.S. Congress has discussed postponing the decision to reflag Kuwaiti tankers. Apparently, Congress has not reached an agreement on this issue which it says may be postponed for 90 days. In general, and in view of the Soviet Union's support for nonintervention by foreigners in the Persian Gulf and its support for the Islamic Republic's positions, what is our general view of this?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Interesting things have been happening (?recently). The Americans have been placed in a position where they must react, and are at an impasse. In relation to this, the Russians have seized the initiative. The issue started when, apparently with U.S. provocation — I am speaking analytically — the Kuwaitis invited the Russians to help in shipping oil with the objective of turning this [invitation] into a pretext for a greater presence in the Persian Gulf. The Russians took the bait. As soon as the Russians committed this mistake, the Americans seized this pretext and, in answer to the three ships the Russians said they would send, they announced that they would flag 11 ships. The United States considered this almost four-fold presence their right.

The Russians, it was revealed, were fooled and the Kuwaitis wereresponsible for this act. However, the situation was reversed in the days that followed. The initiative now lies with the Russians, and they have placed the Americans in a position of reaction. The *Stark* incident took place. The reason for this is that the Russians have a centralized policy and can make decisions they consider advisable. However, such a situation does not exist in the United States. The American leadership is an antithetical and fragmented force. The existing conflicts and differences in America — these conflicts exist in other countries as well, like France — prevent them from making decisions they deem advisable. Rivalries create difficulties. This is what is happening in America.

On the basis of a previous program, Reagan announced that he will fly the [U.S] flag on ships. The Russians exploited this statement, which could not be easily retracted, and they adopted a correct stand. The statement of the Russians proposing the withdrawal of all foreign ships from the Persian Gulf is very progressive and no one can oppose it. It is favored by both the regional countries and by the world. Whoever opposes this is obviously illogical. The fact that the Soviet Union has said both Iraq and Iran should not attack commercial vessels is a logical stand and everybody feels that if this happens, the world will be relieved and the Persian Gulf crisis will be overcome. This is the stand that we have always advocated. We have continually stated that the solution lies in a cessation of Iraq's mischief and that Iran will naturally not attack. Therefore, there is no need for anyone's presence, for any fleet to come and to offer its support. The Soviet stand is exactly the one that we want to see adopted. It is logical and should be supported.

The Americans are now forced to react. If they accept this, the Russians will move ahead of them. The Russians have the honor of being the forerunners of ensuring peace in the region. If the Americans do not accept this, they will be branded with adventurism — something they deserve. America's problem now is that it has made a statement and retreat at this stage would mean defeat. The wise men of America know that the more it advances, the more it will be plunged into a swamp from which it cannot be easily saved. If the Americans turn back today, they will have been harmed only to a certain point. However, if they fly their flag and confront danger and then want to retreat, they will be facing a definite defeat. What the U.S. Congress has proposed appears to be a good escape for the White House and for Mr Reagan. They may now accept this [proposal] because they are facing a crisis and impasse. But we believe that the White House — because of the harm and wounds it has suffered — and Mr Reagan himself — because he does not have much hope for a good future — may accept the risk of adventurism hoping to improve in one way or another Mr Reagan's tarnished politics in order to regain the credibility he has lost in the world.

I have just described one aspect of this difficult situation; the other is that the future of America's Republican Party is threatened. The Democrats have announced a program that promises a better future. The Republicans, however, may be banned from or weakened in the political scene for some time because of their adventurisms. They are dragging along many Western countries with them as well. If a dangerous incident or a crisis occurs in the world, in view of the present situation in the Persian Gulf the Western bloc in general may be blamed for it. However, the Eastern bloc — and especially the Russians — have adopted a stand that promises a better future for them in the world.

[Correspondent] My last question pertains to the arrest of the congregation imam of the New Delhi mosque. What is your excellency's views on this and on the recent problems that have been created for the Muslims in India?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Our opinion is that this is a very wrong and ugly act. The feelings of the immense population of Muslims in India have certainly been hurt. I am surprised that India's experienced politicians can commit such crude acts, that first, they are hurting the Muslims of India -- who have played an immense role in India's independence, in that country's culture and in many other areas -- in this way. They are moving toward civil war. Second, they are hurting the feelings of 1 billion Muslims throughout the world. We expect the Indians to come to their senses and think logically, and not allow their calm, grandeur, and development -- a source of hope and a base on which to rely-- to be blemished. At any rate, if this illogical policy continues, it will be a problem for the region in the future.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I pray for your success. [end recording]

Emami-Kashani Delivers Friday Prayers Sermon

LD101122 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 10 Jul 87

[Text] The ideological and political ceremonies of the Friday prayers were staged in various parts of the country. In Tehran too, the Hezbollah people, present at Tehran University and its surrounding thoroughfares, performed the Friday prayers led by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Emami-Kashani. In today's Friday prayers, on the occasion of the birth of Imam Reza, peace be upon him, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Emami-Kashani praised the status of this imam.

Referring to the issue of the arrest and rough handling by the Indian police of Imam Bukhari, the Friday prayer leader of Delhi, and of the Muslims accompanying him, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Emami-Kashani remarked: This move demonstrates that the world of arrogance has awakened and has understood what Islam means and wants to prevent every kind of Muslim movement through various plots.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Emami-Kashani then referred to the latest proposal of the Soviet Union in connection with the withdrawal of all foreign forces from the Persian Gulf and said: We hope that this proposal of the Soviet Union will be implemented, and in this way they will show us they are sincere. We have said from the start that we will guarrantee the security of the Persian Gulf and that it is the Iraqi regime which has created tension in this region. You must stop this rebellious hireling rather than assist it and place weapons at its disposal because this will result in your own misfortune.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Emami-Kashani added: Some U.S. congressmen have also realized that the United States should pull back from the Persian Gulf because if arrogance wants to enter into open war with Iran, it will be facing Islam and it should know that 1 billion Muslims all over the world will no longer remain quiet. All Shi'ite and Sunni works on jurisprudence also state that the defense of Islam is a duty and at that point the struggle against the United States will begin in every corner of the world. This is not fundamentalism but a divine ideology based on people's beliefs.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Emami-Kashani, said in conclusion: The status of the Islamic Republic of Iran has gained throughout the world due to the presence and self-sacrifice of you people, and now all the people of the world have grasped the greatness of Islam. We should be fully prepared from a military standpoint -- on the ground, at sea, and in the air -- and those who have financial means should support the battlefronts. The people should also maintain their extensive presence on the fronts.

UN Envoy on U.S. Flagging of Kuwaiti Tankers

LD092252 Tehran in English to Europe
1930 GMT 9 Jul 87

[Interview with Rajai'e Khorassani, Iranian representative to the United Nations, by unidentified correspondent; date and place not given — live or recorded]

[Text] [Question] What is your opinion concerning the recent development in the Persian Gulf region? Do you think that the United States is going to go beyond just flagging the Kuwaiti tankers?

[Khorassani] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I believe that the United States may hardly go beyond that. I even believe that the pressure inside the United States against President Reagan is pretty high, and under present circumstances, it does not seem to be very practical or very useful, particularly so far as the internal situation of the United States (is concerned) for President Reagan to go beyond just flagging; even the flagging might be questionable, because, so far as we know, it has been wisely and properly delayed up to now.

[Question] What do you think the arrangement should be in case the United States resorts to military forces.

[Khorassani] Well, that is a very difficult question. We think, we hope that the United States will not resort to military force but just (?this) for the sake of argument, the United States (?is going to do so), I believe that the Islamic Republic of Iran should be prepared to face that situation. And I also believe that we are very well prepared for that. However, we do not want to escalate the turmoil in the Persian Gulf at all, and we hope that the United States is not prepared to declare war against us.

[Question] How do you evaluate the new Soviet proposal in that they would withdraw their [words indistinct] warships from the Persian Gulf and the U.S. reaction vis-a-vis this issue. And what is the [words indistinct] plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran with regard to this matter?

[Khorassani] I believe that the de-escalation of the situation in the Persian Gulf region depends on the presence or absence of the foreign forces in the region, and the present proposal of the USSR seems to be very, very constructive, provided that it is welcomed by the United States, and so far as I know, I believe that the United States might consider this proposal very positively. I at least hope that both superpowers will come to this wise conclusion to withdraw their forces from the region and to highly

contribute to the peace and security of this very very important basin.

[Question] Ambassador Rajai'e Khorassani, at the moment (?the draft of a) notepaper has been produced by the Security Council which may be later on adopted as a resolution. Have you got any comments on that notepaper?

[Khorassani] I believe that this so-called notepaper is not a very constructive one and is not going to ease the tension or to solve any problems in the region. It may even be counterproductive. I think any draft which does not have the support of the Islamic Republic of Iran is not going to be implemented, and if it is not going to be implemented it is not going to add to, let us say it is not going to contribute to the improvement of the situation in the Persian Gulf; it may even exacerbate the relations or the tense relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Security Council as well.

So we hope that the members of the Security Council will not adopt a hasty draft, just for the sake of having adopted a draft. If the actual resolution of the council is concerned, they have to pick on something which is acceptable by the Islamic Republic of Iran as well.

[Question] Thank you and finally, you are aware that the Iraqi regime embarked on chemical bombings of the Kurdish residential hamlets and cities in northern Iraq and Iran. What is the posture taken by the UN Security Council?

[Khorassani] At first, the report which was prepared by the UN team that recently visited Iran — the Security Council has not had any reaction to the further use of chemical weapons by Iraq and I believe that the (?United Nations) in viewing this question referred to the bombing of the northern hamlets and cities of northern Iraq — offered the preparation of that report and since no report has been prepared for the Security Council, the Security Council naturally has not taken any action with regard to these fast developments.

However, I believe that the Security Council does know that the Iraqi regime has been using chemical weapons against both Iranian and Iraqi cities and particularly Iranians have experienced this. So far as the Iranian cities and civilians are concerned, I think the Council does not act but unless a report is prepared by the team, by the UN team, we have requested already and the Security (?Council) accepted the general conclusion to despatch a team again to the region and to prepare a report for the Security Council.

As for the Iraqi civilians and cities, we referred this also to the Security Council to take action on the basis of the information they have received, for instance, from the media. Because even if that information is fully acceptable by all the members of the Security Council, yet they believe that the Iraqi regime is already represented by the (?power) of [words indistinct] for Iraq to the United Nations and it cannot bypass that representation and just take action with regard to some issues which from the viewpoint of the Security Council is considered as a sort of intervention in Iraq's internal affairs. This is a procedural [passage indistinct].

Radio Comments on Congressional Gulf Resolution
LD091624 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1100 GMT 9 Jul 87

[Station political commentary: "The 90-Day Postponement of Reagan's Plan by the House of Representatives"]

[Excerpt] In continuation of the waves of opposition to and concern about the consequences of the plan to support Kuwaiti ships, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a resolution yesterday demanding that the plan be postponed for 90 days. This decision was made in light of the Reagan government's persistent efforts to prepare the ground for reflagging Kuwaiti ships with the Stars and Stripes.

There is much evidence to indicate that Reagan's government, while insisting on a speedy implementation of the plan, is fully aware that the arrival of the U.S. fleet in the Persian Gulf could involve the United States in a dangerous clash with much darker consequences than the events of Lebanon.

However, the dilemma facing Reagan's government is the belief that any retreat from the previous decision may possibly inflict heavier blows to the U.S. position in the region.

Meanwhile, Congressional members are trying, through their opposition and demand for a postponement of the plan, to find a proper way out of this delicate predicament. However, in view of the President's powers under the present system in America and the time limit involved, it does not seem likely that the U.S. houses will succeed in changing the plan.

Also, according to remarks made by some members of the U.S. Congress, the recent decision of the House of Representatives will not bring about any change in the plan to escort Kuwaiti ships, except to bring some political pressure in the implementation phase.

However, the appearance and spread of opposition will in practice make the Reagan government act more carefully, and it will do its best to prevent a repetition of such events as those that occurred in Lebanon. The important point is that according to past experience, no such measures will reduce the probability of the occurance of those events which are worrying the Congressional members and other veteran U.S. politicians.

It might be advisable to recommend to the Reagan government that in addition to the 11 flags that are going to be hoisted on Kuwaiti ships, they had better order many more U.S. flags in order to drape the coffins containing the bodies of the dead U.S. military men. Arrival in this death trap, contrary to the imagination of the Reagan government, is tantamount to setting foot in a swamp much more treacherous than those experienced by U.S. troops in Lebanon and Vietnam.

And, as the commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps mentioned in his speech yesterday, thanks to the missiles we captured in Al-Faw recently, we have succeeded in manufacturing missiles that have a very high potential for destroying warships. [passage omitted]

Tehran Notes International Reaction to War
LD091737 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1055 GMT 9 Jul 87

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Last week the "Nasr-4" operation, carried out in the middle of northern Iraq, was concluded with the capture of the strategic town of Mawut, as well as the establishment of domination over the heights around this town.

Documents captured in Mawut and from schools in the town testify to the fact that the Iraqi regime continues to teach that Iranian Khuzestan should be called by the name of Arabestan. This point was announced by the spokesman for the War Publicity Headquarters in his talk with correspondents. He said:

One of the subjects being taught at schools is a fabricated geography map which instills in the minds of Iraqis that part of the Iranian Islamic homeland is called Arabestan. He pointed out that the nature of the Iraqi regime has not changed over the past several years and that the regime, which had taken upon itself to separate Khuzestan and Kordestan from Iran, still has maintained this claim. It has put on a peace-seeking face purely for its own survival.

Before committing aggression against the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Iraqi regime used to be active against the Islamic Republic of Iran by creating tension on the borders. This activity, which mainly comprised support for the counterrevolutionary escapees and the usurpers of the Pahlavi regime, as well as the provision of equipment and tools for sabotage, was intensified during the 6 months prior to the invasion of the Islamic Republic of Iran. On the other hand, the creation of tension in the border regions, the sporadic attacks on some of the border outposts, and the killing or wounding of border guards were among the hostile acts of the Iraqi regime against the Islamic revolution.

According to statistics published by the War Publicity headquarters, during the 4 months prior to the beginning of the imposed war, 425 cases of aggression against the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran were committed by the Baghdad regime. In addition, witnessing the generosity of the superpowers in providing equipment and support for their regime, the Baghdad rulers invaded the territory of Islamic Iran on 22 September 1980.

Among the points worthy of note regarding this situation is the silence of the international forums in light of this blatant aggression. On 28 September 1980, nearly 7 days after the invasion by the Iraqi regime, the Security Council declared its position on the war by approving Resolution No 479. This position was taken against the background of the June 1950 Security Council which held a session on the Korean War within 24 hours. It condemned the aggression against South Korea and sent the so-called peace force of this organization, composed primarily of Americans, to that country.

In addition to the time it took to approve the first Security Council resolution, the text of the resolution contained explicit support for the Baghdad regime. Not only did this resolution ignore the problem of the Iraqi aggression against the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran, but it went even further in disregarding justice by demanding that both Iran and Iraq, in an equal tone, refrain from resorting to force to resolve their differences; this was explicitly contained in the first clause of a paragraph of the resolution which dealt with its implementation. The explicit meaning of this clause of the resolution is that a cease-fire should take place in the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran, that the Iraqi forces should stay where they are, and that the Islamic Republic of Iran should refrain from driving out the aggressor forces in order to take back their own territory.

It is interesting that at the time, in a formal note, Saddam thanked the Security Council for taking such a position. In any case, nearly 7 years have passed since then. During this time the Security Council has issued numerous statements and resolutions, but what is constantly questioned contains two points: First, [as heard] how much and to what extent have the statements and resolutions of the United Nations dwelled on the basic problems of the war, such as determining who was the aggressor? If the permanent members of the Security Council really desire peace and have not had a hand in raising the banner of war, why do they not hesitate to resort to every measure in the diplomatic scene to support the Iraqi regime politically and militarily? Finding answers to these questions and surveying the measures adopted by the Security Council will expose the biased and unjust position of this council to the minds of the people of the world.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi regime last week unashamedly bombed with chemical weapons the resisting town of Sardasht, killing and wounding tens of people. Against such a background, the Security Council must be required to respond why it has kept silent and has refrained from doing anything practical in the face of Iraq's inhuman activities, including chemical bombing of the resisting town of Sardasht, reports of which have been communicated on a worldwide scale by foreign correspondents? Is not the silence of the council in the face of the crimes of Iraq, especially the recent bombing of Sardasht in which 18 children and 4 pregnant women were martyred, evidence of the council's blatant support for the aggressor regime of Iraq?

Tehran Condemns Plots Against Diplomats
LD101040 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0400 GMT 10 Jul 87

["Review of Foreign Radio Broadcasts" program]

[Excerpts] Simultaneous with the hostile behavior and poisonous propaganda in Europe and the West against Iran's diplomats, the French Government has laid a blockade around our country's embassy in Paris and is checking Iranian subjects entering and leaving it. The excuse for such action, they claim, is the decision of the French Interior Ministry to question an Iranian diplomat, who enjoys diplomatic immunity, so that he can give evidence in a case. In France, propaganda is being spread to the effect that, apparently, the Iranian diplomat, working as an interpreter in our country's embassy in Paris, had a role in the Paris bombings several months ago; and the examining magistrate, investigating

the file on those explosions, wants to question the said diplomat as a witness.

The efforts of the French authorities to find a link between the Islamic Republic of Iran and terrorist incidents, particularly the Paris bombings, demonstrate that another calculated plot is being hatched against the Islamic Revolution. The French action has coincided with other suspicious and insulting behavior, in the forms of arrest, torture, and even assassination of Iranian diplomats in Europe and among the allies of the United States. On the surface, it might seem that these events and accusations are unconnected, but in view of the behavior of these governments, their treatment of the Iranian subjects, and their venomous propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran, it becomes clear that all these conspiracies have originated from a single source and the elements in charge of these plots drink out of the same watering-trough. On the surface, these acts of aggression might seem different, as they are launched in various arenas, but in reality their nature is the same.

The British Government launched its act of aggression with a trite and baseless shoplifting accusation. And now, the French Government has taken over the saga by raising the excuse that possibly one of the Iranian diplomats, or possibly the Islamic Republic of Iran had a role in terrorist actions. [passage omitted]

The French have even said that the Iranian diplomat is a high-ranking member of Iran's secret police serving in Europe. To raise and repeat such accusations demonstrates that the objective of the latest attack of global imperialism against the Islamic Republic of Iran is neither an attempt to clarify the nature of the Paris bombings, nor a step toward defending the victims of those horrific crimes. Rather, the objective is to paint our country in ugly colors by blaming it for the terrorist actions. They intend to provoke emotions from the European people against the Islamic Republic of Iran. They have, therefore, claimed that the accused Iranian diplomat is a high-ranking member of Iran's secret police serving in Europe. That is, they intend to conclude that the incidents in Paris and France are connected to the Islamic Republic of Iran. [passage omitted]

At one stage, in order to create a further sensation, it was said that Mr Gorki, the Iranian diplomat in France, is related to our country's leaders. Hand in hand with the foreign radio stations, the French Government resorted to more tricks to deceive public opinion and particularly the French people. Other, more interesting propaganda was launched against the said diplomat so as to increase the sensitivity of the issue. The BBC even claimed that the French authorities, at their own discretion, have permitted Mr Gorki to leave France. However, once again, it turned out the BBC state radio had fabricated the news. Perhaps, the radio resorted to such a trick to add to the sensation. In any case, the radio report was wrong and during a news conference held by our country's charge d'affaires in Paris, Mr Gorki faced the reporters as the interpreter and put an end to the rumors. [passage omitted]

An extensive conspiracy is being hatched against the Islamic Republic of Iran in Europe and is implemented by physical and character assassination of Iranian diplomats. [passage omitted] Who on earth would believe that a diplomat might risk his position by shoplifting, and particularly by stealing a pair of socks? The enemies of the Muslim people of Iran think that by such tricks they can ruin the reputation of the people of Iran and undermine the glory of the Islamic Revolution.

The events taking place among the U.S. allies in Europe show that a calculated conspiracy is being hatched against the Islamic Republic of Iran and some secret hands are trying to feed and expand this conspiracy. In the first instance, it is up to the European governments to confront these suspicious tricks, which are probably organized by the U.S. Government. They should not allow such tricks to undermine their relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Right now the Zionist and American propagandists are spreading rumors that the Iranian embassies abroad have employed special agents from the Intelligence Ministry [as heard] to organize guerrilla activities against those states opposed to Iran. We have witnessed such propaganda before and every time they have been halted and neutralized thanks to the power of the Islamic Revolution.

Simultaneous with the conspiracies hatched against our country's diplomats in Europe, last week a diplomat of the Islamic Republic of Iran became the victim of a terrorist action in Madrid and was seriously wounded. [passage omitted] The Zionists and the Americans who have sustained heavy blows from the victory of the Islamic Revolution, are trying to avenge their failure in Lebanon and in other Islamic states by resorting to such feeble deeds. In view of the outcome of the seven countries' industrial summit in Venice, where it was said that the United States and its allies do not wish to see the Islamic Republic of Iran victorious against Iraq in the war, it seems that the terrorist actions and political-military pressure of the U.S. allies are part of the endeavor of the arrogant powers to prevent the victory of the Islamic Republic. In all their conspiracies of the past several years, they have concentrated their attacks around a single axis: They want Iran to end the war and compromise with the Iraqi regime. In view of the disgrace facing the White House and the inability of the U.S. ruling clique to impose its might in the Persian Gulf, it appears that the U.S. Government is resorting to these tricks as a way of reducing the heavy burden of pressure from its shoulders.

Pakistani Government To Prevent Anti-Iranian Acts

LD091808 Tehran IRNA in English 1754 GMT 9 Jul 87

[Text] Islamabad, July 9, IRNA — The Islamabad Government will not allow any group or organization to engage in anti-Islamic Republic activities on Pakistani territory, said Pakistani Deputy Foreign Minister Abdul Sattar here today.

The Pakistani official told a news conference here that because of the friendly Tehran-Islamabad ties, the Pakistani Government had neither recognized any Iranian opposition group nor granted political asylum to any Iranian individual. He said his government had granted asylum only to Afghan refugees.

In response to a question as to the recent clashes between supporters and enemies of the Islamic revolution in the Pakistani cities of Quetta and Karachi, Abdul Sattar reiterated that his

government had no proof of the Tehran Government's involvement in the clashes.

The deputy foreign minister said his government is very concerned over the presence of Iranian counterrevolutionaries in Pakistan and would treat those responsible for the clashes according to Pakistani laws.

Montazeri Urges Officials To Show Devotion

LD091726 Tehran IRNA in English 1715 GMT 9 Jul 87

[Text] Qom, Central Prov., July 9, IRNA — Future spiritual leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri received a group of civil servants as well as military and education officials in this holy city Wednesday, on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Imam Reza (AS), the eighth imam of the household of Prophet Mohammad (SAW).

During the meeting, Ayatollah Montazeri delivered a speech on characteristics of true Muslims, calling on the visitors to follow the traditions of Prophet Mohammad (SAW) and the imams in their daily life.

The revered ayatollah also advised the officials to continue serving Islam and the Islamic Revolution. The ayatollah said as Iranian Muslim combatants are devotedly fighting the Iraqi Ba'thist troops on the war fronts, others should show similar devotion wherever they are working, whether in an office, bazaar, schools and factories or on a farm.

The visitors also included some personnel of various departments of the Construction Jihad, the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps and the Islamic Revolution's committees as well as volunteer forces.

SAIRI Plenum Issues 5-Point Resolution

LD091041 Tehran IRNA in English 0917 GMT 9 Jul 87

[Text] Sanandaj, Kurdistan Prov., July 9, IRNA — The fourth plenary session of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI), ended its one-day work here Wednesday with a five-point resolution issued.

The resolution condemned policies of reactionary Kuwaiti leaders in paving the way for the interference of the superpowers and their military presence in the sensitive Persian Gulf region. It called on the superpowers to end their military presence in the region.

Referring to the Security Council's resolution on the Iraq-Iran war, the SAIRI resolution stressed that the U.N. paid no attention to the trampled rights of the people of Iran and Iraq. It said the U.N. should provide the Iraqi people with an opportunity to freely determine their own fate.

In another point of the resolution, the so-called Middle East peace conference and exchange visits of reactionary Arab leaders and their compromising stance at the conference were condemned.

It announced support for struggles of Muslim and oppressed people of Lebanon, Afghanistan, Palestine, Egypt, Kuwait and Tunisia and pledged solidarity with them.

It called on all international organisations including the Human Rights Committee and on the world Muslims taking part in this year's hajj rituals to condemn Iraqi crimes in attacking residential areas and deploying chemical weapons against civilians.

Pledging allegiance to Imam Khomeyni, the participants at the session praised efforts of Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, President 'Ali Khamene'i, Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Iranian Government and officials of Kordestan Province for seeing to the welfare of Iraqi refugees especially those from Iraq's Kurdistan.

Speaking in the last session of the gathering, on the struggles of Muslims in Iraq, Majlis speaker's representative Hojjat ol-Eslam Dori-Najafabadi [name as received] said the Islamic Republic of Iran would provide all help necessary for the Iraqi people in their war of liberation.

Unity of expression of all combatant Iraqi forces is essential for overcoming the Ba'thist regime in Iraq, Hoj. Najafabadi said, noting that further attention should be paid to the future of Iraq.

Meanwhile, President Khamene'i's representative Hojjat ol-Eslam Salek hailed military operations of Iraqi Mojahedin personnel of Badr-9 Division in western and southern fronts and their participation in regular and irregular warfare operations. On overall support of international arrogance for the Baghdad regime, he said the Islamic movement of Muslim people of Iraq would continue its fight till the Ba'thist regime of Iraq is toppled.

Another speaker was Sairi spokesman Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahmud Hashemi who spoke on what he described as "thwarted plots" of international arrogance in sowing discord among Iraqi Mojahedin.

Mobilization Forces From Esfahan, Shiraz Depart

LD091943 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Jul 87

[Excerpt] A large number of mobilization forces from Bovir Ahmadi va Kohkiluyeh and Esfahan Provinces left this afternoon for the battlefields in order to confront U.S. imperialism and its plots in the Persian Gulf. Furthermore, a large number of mobilization forces from five districts and other towns and districts have departed from Shiraz. [passage omitted]

Combat Operations Continue in War With Iraq

Iraqi Oil Platforms on Fire

LD091538 Tehran IRNA in English 1510 GMT 9 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, July 9 IRNA — Concentration centers and military equipment of Iraqi forces on Al-Bakr and Al-Amaya platforms were set afire Wednesday night, according to reports

reaching here from Moqaddam-9 headquarters of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC).

In the heavy fighting at close range, the IRGC naval forces set ablaze and destroyed several munitions depots and concentration centers of Ba'thist forces on Al-Bakr and Al-Amaya platforms last night.

Communique No 2,892

LD091615 Tehran IRNA in English 1554 GMT 9 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, July 9, IRNA — Iraqi troops suffered considerable losses in men and equipment throughout the fronts in artillery duels with Iranian Muslim combatants Wednesday, said a military communique here Thursday.

Communique Number 2892 released by the Joint Staff Command of Iran's Armed Forces said that at least 10 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several enemy gun emplacements and observation posts destroyed in a southern front yesterday when hit by Iranian artillery fire.

Elsewhere, in the southern fronts Wednesday, Iranian gendarmerie forces shelled Iraqi positions, killing a number of enemy soldiers and setting afire 10 gun emplacements and observation posts of theirs.

Iraqi warplanes appeared in the sky of the southern Iranian waters twice yesterday, but were forced to flee each time without carrying out any bombing missions by Iranian jet fighters.

The artillery fire of Iranian Muslim forces inflicted heavy losses on Iraqi tanks and disrupted their movement in the southern theater of Yebis Wednesday.

The movement of Iraqi vehicle columns were also checked by Iranian artillery fire in Mehran and Naft-e Shah, western fronts.

Iranian Navy gunboats heavily shelled Iraqi oil platforms of Al-Amaya and Al-Bakr in the northern tip of the Persian Gulf yesterday, preventing enemy vessels from sailing in the region, the communique concluded.

Foreign Office Spokesman on Karachi Incident 8 Jul

BK091714 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 9 Jul 87

[Excerpts] A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that Pakistan will continue its efforts for (?friendship) and understanding among the countries of the Gulf and will make every possible effort to prevent the Iran-Iraq war from escalating. [passage omitted]

The spokesman informed newsmen about yesterday's incidents in Karachi [words indistinct] that the government has initiated an inquiry and the appropriate action will be taken (?after learning the facts).

The spokesman said that Pakistan rejects attempts by any foreign nationals to use its territory to foment riots like the events which took place yesterday.

He affirmed that relations between Pakistan and Iran are extremely close and that Pakistan will not tolerate acts by those opposed to the Government of Iran on its territory. The spokesman asserted that the authorities will take steps to prevent such riots.

The spokesman also said that Pakistan has not given refugee status to any group (?from Iran); they are foreign nationals and are expected to fully respect the laws of Pakistan.

13 Arrested for Quetta Attack on Iranians

BK091630 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 9 Jul 87

[Text] According to APP, law enforcement agencies have arrested 13 suspects near (Koshki), about 90 km from Quetta, in connection with the inquiry into the attack (?on) Iranian citizens at Satellite Town in Quetta yesterday. They were carrying weapons.

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Expected To Visit

BK061531 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 6 Jul 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has expressed the hope that the indirect Geneva negotiations on Afghanistan will resume soon. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad today, he said that the Soviet deputy foreign minister is expected to visit Pakistan in the near future.

Answering a question, the foreign minister said that France has always supported Pakistan's principled stand on the Afghanistan issue. The French parliamentary delegation, now visiting Pakistan, has again affirmed that France supports the efforts being made by Pakistan for a just settlement of the Afghanistan problem through the UN-sponsored indirect negotiations.

Parliament Votes Increase in Defense Spending

BK091227 Colombo International Service in English 1100 GMT 9 Jul 87

[Text] Parliament has voted to sharply increase defense spending and (?more) funds for civil purposes. The minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, told the house that Sri Lanka has not abandoned its search for a political solution to the ethnic problem. He stressed that in the search for peace, the security forces must be strengthened to meet the challenge forced by the armed terrorists.

Parliament approved five supplementary estimates amounting to 1.9 billion rupees. Mr Athulathmudali said that 40 million rupees will be spent to give relief to northern fishermen. Another 30 million rupees will be spent to resettle people along the Kantalai-Habarane road.

Referring to allegations about defense contracts, the minister said that procedures have been followed even to meet requirements of urgent equipment.

LANKA PUWATH Terrorist Action Report 9 Jul

BK091021 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0932 GMT 9 Jul 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Excerpt] Colombo, July 09 (*Lanka Puwath*) — A security force patrol captured five Claymore mines and two plastic cans of explosives at Velvettithurai in the Jaffna District, hidden by separatist terrorists yesterday.

The Media Centre in Colombo told *Lanka Puwath* that police constable Piyaratna of the Special Task Force (STF) was killed when he tripped on a Claymore mine at Porativu in the Batticaloa District yesterday.

Separatist terrorists killed two civilians, one of whom was a woman at Sagama road in Batticaloa, eastern Sri Lanka yesterday. They were found shot dead and tied to a lamp post. [passage omitted]

More Attacks on Security Forces Reportedly Planned

BK101141 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 10 Jul 87

[Text] Security sources said yesterday that they have information that the LTTE and EROS were to launch a series of joint attacks on the Jaffna Fort, Point Pedro, and Velvettiturai camps.

The sources said that intelligence reports also indicated that these attacks would be (?tougher) than the attack directed at the Nelliady camp last Sunday [5 July] where 18 security forces personnel died. The LTTE and EROS have brought several of their bombs for this purpose.

The two terrorists groups have also asked the civilians living close to these camps to evacuate. Security forces in the north are, however, geared to meet this threat.

Over 5,000 Refugees Return From India in 1987

BK091003 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0927 GMT 9 Jul 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Excerpt] Colombo, July 09 (*Lanka Puwath*) — Five thousand three hundred and twenty one (5,321) refugees have returned to Sri Lanka from south India so far this year (1987), the Media Centre in Colombo told *Lanka Puwath*..

Yesterday, 52 refugees arrived at the Talaimannar pier in north western Sri Lanka, from south India. [passage omitted]